Complete list on page A20 Saturday, March 27, 2010 12 sections / Vol. 25 / No. 189 P10

San Beda tops bar exams after 43 years

Dona Z. Pazzibugan

AFTER MORE THAN FOUR DECADES, San Beda College again has a bar topnotcher.

Not one but two.

Senator Paul B. Sotto of San Beda College (SBC) topped the 2009 bar examinations with an average score of 84.80 percent.

Fellow SBC law graduate Charlene Mae C. SAN BEDA, A13

No foul play in death of Cesar Montano's son
METRO / A25

Only 1 Filipina passes Japanese nursing exam
NEWS / A19

Palawan gov disqualified as House bet
ACROSS / A17

Bin Laden threatens US over 9/11 plotter
WORLD / A28

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

COOL TREAT ON A HOT DAY A vendor sells watermelon slices at P10 each on Quezon Street in Binondo, Manila. The juicy, hot red fruit is selling briskly, thanks to the summer heat. ARNOLD ALMACEN

It's a 'win-win' for GMA

Mike A condition improves, say docs

By Mike Frialde and Christian V. Esguerra

FIRST GENTLEMAN JOSE Miguel Arroyo has shown "marked improvement" after drugs eased his pain and stabilized his blood pressure. But doctors yesterday said they were keeping him under close watch because of a "new tear" in a major blood vessel branching out of his heart.

Doctors at St. Luke's Medical Center-Global City in Taguig described the 63-year-old Arroyo as "conscious," and said in a medical bulletin: "We are now gradually putting him on progressive diet and he has started to do bedside rehab."

MIKE A, A10

BILLIONAIRES ON THE ROAD NP presidential candidate Sen. Manuel Villar and boxing champ and congressional candidate Manny Pacquiao wave to the crowd during a motorcade in Gen. Santos City. MARI LOCSIN

PLEASE KISS! LP standard-bearer Sen. Noynoy Aquino and his girl Shalani Soledad beg off on the crowd's clamor for a smooch at rally in Valenzuela City kicking off local poll campaign. She's running for councilor.

Local political road show off and running

By Inquirer Bureau and Julie M. Aurelio

THE LOCAL ELECTION CAMpaign season kicked off into high gear yesterday as 18,000 candidates hit the campaign hustings with the ubiquitous Iliuly Mass, exuberant motorcades, blaring loudspeakers, traffic jams and reams of posters scattered about.

None of the usual campaign mayhem attended the opening of the congressional campaign in Pampanga's second district where the leading candidate was nowhere in sight.

But posters of President Macapagal-Arroyo—whose son, the incumbent Rep. Juan Miguel "Mikey" Arroyo is giving way to her candidacy—were everywhere, tied to electric posts, the fence of the St. Augustine Church or tacked on to tree trunks.

Inevitably, posters of the Ang Galing Pinoy party-list group, of which Mikey is the nominee, were displayed beside those of Ms Arroyo's.

The Liberal Party, which has put up Admin Bitjuan against Ms Arroyo, had a low-key campaign opening in Betis, starting off with a Mass and ending with the suffering of a big turnabout.

The candidacy of Ms Arroyo, whose nine-year rule has been LOCAL, A10

'Speaker or not, she's trouble for successor'

IF PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-Arroyo wins as representative of the second district of Pampanga, loses the fight for the speakership, but retains the loyalty of 90 other members of the House, she can maneuver this group into a potent bloc that can "undermine" her successor in Malacañang.

Makati Mayor and vice presidential candidate Jejomar Binay warned of this post-election scenario in reaction to the Inquirer report yesterday that Ms Arroyo had the numbers to win the speakership.

"If Ms Arroyo captures just one-third of the House of Representatives, then she will handle the constitutional threshold of impeaching Malacañang's [new] occupant," Binay said in a statement.

VISAYAS, A12

EARTH HOUR

'Black Saturday' comes a week early

By Alexis Pape and Cores Doyo

BLACK SATURDAY COMES A week early this year as huge areas of the country will be plunged into darkness tonight as millions of Filipinos take part in Earth Hour, a worldwide grassroots movement aimed at tackling climate change.

The Philippines is again poised to break records in its participation in the hour-long global switch-off, a symbolic call for united action on climate change.

A total of 1,041 towns and BLACK, A15

Imelda opens bid with 'kiss of death'

ONE MORE TIME Imelda Marcos kisses the glass coffin of her husband, the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos, in Batac, Ilocos Norte. REUTERS

By Jim Gomez
Associated Press

BATAC, ILOCOS NORTE—Bedecked in jade and diamonds and with a kiss on the glass casket containing her dictator husband's embalmed body, former first lady Imelda Marcos on Friday launched her campaign for a congressional seat—at the age of 80.

Marcos and nearly 10,000 other politicians barnstormed through the country on the first PHILIPPINES, A14

PCSO men driving hot vehicles but didn't know it

By Nancy C. Carvajal

MORE THAN TWO DOZEN EMployees of the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) in Quezon City have been looking around in fancy cars, including PCSO, A11

MVP to pour in P5B more into TV5 for network wars

By Paolo Montecillo and Bayani San Diego Jr.

THE NEW OWNERS OF TV5, led by businessman Manuel V. Pangilinan, want to pour in another P5 billion into the network to ensure that it overtakes ABS-CBN and GMA 7 for the top spot in the local broadcasting industry.

This additional investment will go on top of the P5 billion that MediaQuest Holdings Inc. plans to spend just this year to reach the goal of being the country's largest TV network.

MediaQuest, a subsidiary of PhilippineLong Distance Telephone Co.'s (PLDT) Beneficial Trust Fund, acquired ABC Development Corp. (TV5's corporate name) for an undisclosed amount last year.

It likewise bought MBS Primedia, the Philippine unit of TV5's Malaysian block timer Media Prima Berhad, last year.

"Right now, we are a strong No. 3, but our goal, of course, is to be No. 1 in both news and entertainment," MediaQuest president and CEO Boy C. Espinosa said at the grand launch of the TV5 brand Thursday night at the World Trade Center in Pasay City.

Quite unsurprisingly, a 6-1 start headed for Metro Manila on the same day.

Is this a jittery start for the station formerly known as "Ka-Shake" (as in dancing)?

Later guests were treated to MVP TO POUR, A21

WEATHER FORECAST
FRIDAY: Tropical Depression "FEMENG" has maintained its strength as it continues its westward path. Most parts of Luzon, Luzon and Visayas will continue to have hot and humid weather. Rains will prevail over the eastern sections of the country and the partly cloudy to rainy

Second FRONTPAGE

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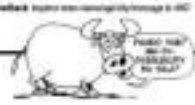

RUNNING OUT OF AIR TIME

Aquino, Villar over the limit

By Kristine L. Alave and Nikko Dizon

THE TWO LEADING PRESIdential candidates, Sen. Benigno "Noynoy" Aquino III of the Liberal Party (LP) and Sen. Manuel "Manny" Villar of the Nacionalista Party (NP), had exceeded their maximum air time of 120 minutes in a television network, the Commission on Elections (Comelec) said yesterday.

Aquino had exceeded his limit of commercial air time in ABS-CBN newscasts two months before the May 10 elections, the Comelec said.

It added that Aquino paid for the ABS-CBN commercials, which totaled 291.5 minutes from Feb. 9 to March 12, under his own name.

Villa's commercials, on the other hand, were logged under NP expenses.

Comelec spokesperson James Jimenez said the NP had used up 2260 minutes of air time in ABS-CBN. The Commission also said Villar paid under his name in ABS-CBN and TV5 totaled only 33 minutes only, according to Comelec records.

Maxed out

"We have two presidential candidates who have been given the maximum of their advertising for new stations. First, we have Aquino going over the limit," Jimenez said in a press briefing yesterday.

"Villar has only totaled about 27 minutes, but NPhas 226 minutes in terms of advertising for ABS-CBN," Jimenez added.

Jimenez said the Comelec would notify the candidates that they have violated the provisions of the 1987 Election Law on media advertisement, which aimed to level the playing field among candidates.

Under the law, a candidate is allowed 120 minutes of broadcasting time per station during the election campaign period.

Warning

"The Comelec will inform them and their party of the state of play for their ads. We will warn them from airing further ads on the 4 stations where they have exceeded their limits," Jimenez said.

Violation of the Fair Election Law is considered an election offense and could lead to imprisonment, fines, and disbarment from public and election affairs.

However, a group of nongovernment monitoring watchdog, Kontra Gastusan (Anti-Campaign Spending and Vote-Buying) Network, said that Aquino and Villar had already exceeded the 120-minutes air time limit on political advertisements in the country's top two television networks.

Drawing attention to data provided by the ratings firm AC Nielsen, the Pera at Palitika Network said that Villar had aired 126.25 minutes of advertisements over GMA 7 and 122.5 minutes on ABS-CBN.

Aquino aired 118 minutes of ads over GMA 7 and 129 minutes on ABS-CBN, it said.

Villar said in a statement that he had not exceeded his air time on the two networks and stressed that he followed the law.

Wrong impression

"The reports may give the wrong impression in the minds of the public. I'd like to believe that there was simply basic mistake in the counting of my 30 seconds, perhaps by adding the AIP television ads in the count," Villar said.

Jimenez said that should Aquino want to show political ads on ABS-CBN, he had to use LPs allowed advertising limit, which is 120 minutes.

"For Noynoy, there is still party time for him. I guess it's all about strategy," he said.

Plenty of air time

The Comelec said Aquino had only 1/3 used up 99 minutes in GMA 7 and 2 minutes in TV5 and could thus still promote campaign commercials in the networks.

Jimenez said if Villar wanted to show commercials in ABS-CBN, he should spend his own money and not his party's.

The Comelec said the other presidential candidates had not yet maximized their allowable air time.

Former Joseph Estrada has bought 37 volumes of air time in 4(10) GMA and 45.5 minutes in GMA 7, Sen. Richard Gordon of Bagumbayan has spent 47.5 in ABS-CBN, 39.5 minutes in GMA 7 and 8 seconds in TV5.

Our flour is safe, says Turkish envoy

Villar, Erap rap gov't for allowing import

By Jerry E. Esplanada

TURKISH FLOUR IS NOT TOXIC AND therefore "fit for human consumption."

Turkish Ambassador to the Philippines Adnan Bazaga made this statement yesterday as he stressed the importation of soy sauce contaminated materials from Turkey to the Philippines "will never happen."

"My government will never let any attempt to export such materials to prove contrary," said Bazaga.

In a hastily arranged news conference at his Forbes Park residence in Makati, Bazaga described as "unfounded" claims that flour imported from his country was contaminated and potentially toxic.

The envoy also pointed out that the Turkish government "has never allowed toxic or contaminated food items to be fed to its people."

"The same principle applies to all products coming from Turkey," Bazaga emphasized.

Two presidential candidates—Senator Manny Villar and former Manila Mayor Joseph Estrada—have criticized the Arroyo administration's task for "sleeping on the job" and for allowing the importation of "cheap yet reportedly harmful" food ingredients.

Threat to public health

In a statement, Villar asked Malacañang to quickly order an investigation into the threat to public health posed by the continued use of Turkish flour by local manufacturers.

"The Department of Health (DOH) seems to have been caught the flour to the recent revelation that cheap Turkish flour used to contain traces of bread and noodles could be unsafe for consumption," Villar said.

Villar called on the health department to take decisive steps against the further use of contaminated Turkish flour in local bread and noodles.

Estrada said the importation of the damaging flour and sugar wouldn't have happened had the administration not allowed their smuggling into the country.

"I was also President.... I was quite careful in dealing with such matters," Estrada said of the executive branch's role in preventing harmful ingredients from entering the country.

He said those behind the importation of Turkish flour and magic sugar only think about making a quick profit.

"They couldn't care less about the poor. Their only concern is to make a profit," Estrada said.

Nothing to worry about

But Deniz Tuna Arda, third secretary and deputy head of the Turkish mission here, said Filipinos have "nothing to worry about."

"We have a special certificate from our government that it is safe flour. It is definitely healthy flour," said Arda.

In a joint statement, Gachan Ulusoy, member of the board of the Turkish Food Industrialists Federation, and Konsuc Chee Ke Hong, president of the Istanbul Longlife Trading Corp., said there was "no concrete evidence" that Turkish wheat flour contains carcinogenic microbes called Ochratoxin A before all the shipments arrive in the Philippines."

"The issue was just 'rumor' on an article on the Journal of Food and Drug Analysis that is clearly speculative," they said.

They claimed "the wheat samples used by the research were limited and only from one region (Thrace) in Turkey representing just 10 percent of Turkey's total grain production. Therefore, it was inconclusive."

"All wheat being imported by Turkey are being tested for ochratoxin A by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs. The last 800 shipments of what had undergone Ochratoxin A testing and all tested negative," they said.

Eaten by a billion

They also noted that "you only 71 million Turkish consume Turkish wheat but also 1.1 billion people from 135 countries eat food made from Turkish flour."

Turkey is the ninth largest producer of wheat and the second largest exporter of wheat flour world wide.

Last year, the Philippines imported 57 percent of its total wheat flour supply from Turkey, paving the way for consumers to avail of good quality wheat flour. This maintained the prices of pasta oil and other bread products affordable to Filipinos, the embassy said.

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ENROLLMENT FOR S.Y. 2010 – 2011 IS NOW GOING ON

BIR orders tollways; start collecting VAT

By Ronaud N. Domingo

THE BUREAU OF INTERNAL REVENUE HAS ordered tollway operators to start collecting the 12-percent value-added tax (VAT) starting April 1, initially on private vehicles.

Revenue Commissioner Joel L. Tan Torres yesterday said the imposition of the levy was long overdue considering that it was provided for in the Reformed VAT Law of 1995.

The law not only raised the VAT to 12 percent from 10 percent but also expanded the list of goods and services covered by it.

"The imposition of the VAT on toll roads was deferred due to the intervention of some officials in the government," Tan Torres said.

"Some argue that this needs to go through the Tollways Regulatory Board, but we (in the BIR don't think so," he said.

For example, he said, the collection of the VAT on electricity did not require the approval of the Energy Regulatory Commission.

He pointed out that the BIR might even be accused of dereliction of duty if the levy on tollways continued to be deferred.

As early as January

Tan Torres said tollway operators were apprised of the April 1 schedule as early as January, and that compliance should not be too difficult.

Yesterday this said, the BIR yesterday issued Revenue Memorandum Circular No. 30-2010 to clarify an earlier memo that announced the imposition of the levy.

RMC No. 72-1995 issued in December reiterated RMC No. 53-2005 (issued when the expanded VAT law was enacted), which stated that toll fees were subject to the VAT.

"However, to mitigate the impact on the riding public, a transition period shall be observed for the implementation of these circulars," Tan Torres said.

He said public utility vehicles would be covered by the VAT at a later time.

P1.3B a year

Tan Torres said the VAT would yield an estimated P1.2 billion a year "when fully implemented."

Citing data from the Tollways Regulatory Board, he said private vehicles represented 70-80 percent of revenues from the VAT on toll roads.

The BIR is hard-pressed to raise P800 billion in revenues this year to support the government's plan of funding the budget deficit to P280 billion.

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Stung by snub, Kapatiran to boycott TV network

By DJ Yap

AT THE RISE OF HUNTING ITS own campaign, the big Kapatiran party (AKP) yesterday announced it would "stop cooperating" with the ABS-CBN broadcast network over the latter's allegedly biased treatment of Kapatiran in its ki-rums-and-clarion coverage.

"In boycott: the right word? That's up to you. We've decided to call it 'stop cooperating with ABS-CBN,'" said party president Eric Marcaisog at a press conference over presenting.

Kapatiran was slighted by what it called the "apparent and deliberate" exclusion of its vice presidential candidate, Dominador "Jun" Chipeco, from the debate organized by ABS-CBN on March 21, "Kapatiran: The Vice Presidential Debate."

The party cited a news report posted on the ABS-CBN website stating that "the only vice presidential candidate who did not join the debate was Mr. Felix Marcaisco." The website later explained that Chipeco also did not appear and had in fact not been invited.

"The media has the obligation to inform all voters about all the candidates. It was unfair to our party that our candidate was not even invited," AKP branding chief Nandy Pacheco said.

AKP party president Eric Marcaisog wrote ABS-CBN managing director Martin Bautista on March 23, asking ABS-CBN to "publicly rectify" Chipeco's exclusion from the debate, and correct the false news report implying the presence of Chipeco in that debate.

"Three days after APC received our letter, we still have to see a response," he said.

He said the party would ask the Kapatiran ng mga Brodkaster ng Pilipinas to look into the alleged discrimination against their party and would file a case of violation of the Fair Elections Act with the Commission on Elections.

He also cited several instances when the broadcast giant failed to invite Kapatiran candidates to its forums. According to one Kapatiran staff member, "we have to invite ourselves. We would call the organizer and invite ourselves over the house."

Kapatiran presidential standard bearer John Carlos "JC" de los Reyes said the "boycott," as far as he was concerned, did not extend to snubbing ABS-CBN reporters who might want to interview him.

"I think the reporters are innocent. It's still the management, to the other. I would be a sucker if I don't entertain questions and it's not something I can control. Besides, it's my responsibility to reveal the truth," he told reporters.

According to Kapatiran chair Manuel Dayrit, they believe "there is a collapse in ABS-CBN but apparently it is beyond this. What the people want is more power, more competition."

"This is not an all-out against ABS-CBN. Neither is it an all-out against the Lopez family. I don't think they are behind this. This is just a slogan. If they're trying to discredit us, we don't want to cop but we have our own conjectures," he said.

Marcaisog admitted that the party action could end up hurting their campaign. "Like they say, beggars can't be choosers, but we can only be pushed to the wall so much."

Kapatiran Standard Bearer Family Packers said: "We have to be faithful to the principles we uphold. We'd rather lose the election than lose the principles that hope us in this election." With Jerome Aning

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Correction

IN "DE JURE, DE FACTO, the January story—"Protests vs SC mount"—misquoted economics professor and former National Economic and Development Authority Director General Solita Monsod. The quote attributed to Monsod should have read: "Supreme Court, can you listen to us? Defend the Constitution instead of misinterpreting it."

* * *

Readers may send their response for consideration of Archival's efforts in writing to the Post Desk, Philippine Daily Inquirer, 700 Building, Chino Roces Avenue corner Amorsolo Street, Makati City, Fax No. 897-4737 (02) 896, e-mail address: inquirer@inquirer.com.ph.

Complaints about lack of interest or objection may be sent to the Publisher, e-mail address: [illegible] or fax No. 897-4737 (02) 896, care The Publisher (the phone number is 897-4800 local 350).

The Daily Gospel

Saturday, March 27, 2010
5th Week of Lent

1st Reading: Ezk 37:21-28
Gospel: Jn 11:45-56

Many of the Jews who had come with Mary believed in Jesus when they saw what he did, but some went to the Pharisees and told them what Jesus had done. So the chief priests and the Pharisees called the Sanhedrin Council.

They said, "What are we to do? For this man keeps on giving miraculous signs. If we let him go on like this, all the people will believe in him, and, as a result of this, the Romans will come and sweep away our Holy Place and our nation."

Then one of them, Caiaphas, who was High Priest that year, spoke up. "You know nothing at all nor can you see that's what you need. It is better to have one man die for the people than to let the whole nation be destroyed."

In saying this Caiaphas did not speak for himself, but being High Priest that year, he foretold at a prophet that Jesus would die for the nation, and not for the nationality but also to gather into unity the scattered children of God. So, from that day on, they were determined to kill him.

Because of this, Jesus no longer moved about freely among the Jews. He withdrew instead to the country near the wilderness and stayed with his disciples in a town called Ephraim.

The Passover of the Jews was at hand and people from the country went up to Jerusalem to purify themselves before the Passover. They looked for Jesus and as they stood in the Temple, they talked with one another, "What do you think? Will he come to the festival?"

Commentary:

"The chief priests and the Pharisees had given orders that if anyone knew where Jesus was, he must report it, so that they could arrest him."

Conscience formation is a profound and a necessary part of life.

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Melchor Cruz	Mylene Gutierrez	Nelson Ramos	Nonie Aquino	Nonoy Bandoy	Philip Ayala	Rafael Ramos
Rogelio Saavedra	Rolando Nocum	Rolston Mariano	Romeo Ribosa	Samuel Reyes	Shella Chatlan	Wilfredo Velasco

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Jovel Alimandao	Jun Cruz	Lolita Crispino	Ma. Neely Atanques	Morgan Obando	Myrtle Batac	Myrtle Billones
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Maria Evelyn Callao	Maria Europa	Romeo Pitoldo	Rolando Ayala	Salvador Santana	Santiago Zimbon Jr	Viola Jean Banzuela

Washing Machine

Analiza Quitayen	Antonio Mabi	Arnel Geraldo	Dalgren Wynter	Florencel Ramos	Jenny Singular	Jesus Oyales
Jose Zipagauld	Joseph Salazar	Melvin Pantilonan	Nelson Valdez	Rodolfo Reyes	Vinsons Dagon	Yvelos Cayapas

Microwave Oven

Antonio Collarda	Arnel Fadeal	Eduardo Tayone	Enrique Ballete	Joseph Rabuar	Jerry Bongolan	Jessie Capangpan
Ruri Torres	Julius Alegre	Manuel Ballos	Omar Zaragoza	Ray Montero	Reynaldo Caponcha	Yolanda Ruiz

32.5lcm Colored TV

Cesar Quiterio	Edcenio Dee	Ma. Theresa Panadesan	Michelle Lliad	Rhodes Bonsteng	Teonel Hinahe	Yollie Reyeg

Personal Rel

Bienvenido Obena	Evangeline Magan	Francisco Domingo	Joselito Amoste	Orlando Aguijon	Peter Pacheco	Virgilio Arevalo Ortega

Sala Set

Geraldo Hayan Jr.	Edilberto Estevanes	Lormie Tabangay	Marry Ramos	Nilo Rual Mallaga	Rowena Higashikawa	Victor Albos

Bicycle

Elie Alvin Villanueva	Joselito Mussin	Luzena Pina	Nathaniel Apuyan	Romeo Sto. Domingo	Sean Co	Wesley Hwang

NORTH LUZON

Rice Cooker

Adela Calingacion	Apolinario Agsi	Asuki Ramirez	Bernardino Constantino	Charito Simara	Conrado Rosio	Domore Baquiran
Destiny de Guzman	Elen Kalpakian	Emelio de Jesus	Enerjan Dela Cruz	Federico Dela Cruz Jr	Gerardo Gomez	Gregorio Bagaiman
Irving Dungao	Jeoffrey Ebonque	Jose Bobby Quirante	Joselito Mercadejas	Laurena Santos	Leonardo Balbuena	Lorna Ciudad
Manuel Jodi Jr	Marlon Ebonque	Mariano Abellanosa	Mary Jane Marcelino	Michael Chavez	Rizal Barrientos	Romualdo Alonzo
Rudy Pelayo	Vladimir Gonzales	Wilfredo Mallari	William Pelores			

Gas Range

Alberto Ingreso	Alberto Santos	Alfredo Carbonell	Allan Agbulutan	Amilkar Solomon	Antonio Casabuhan	Arnel De Vera
Carmelita Hemogenes	Cesar Peralta	Chapi Ildefon	Edelina Quintana	Edgardo Villar	Elmo Cruz	Enderio Dalupihan
Gerlie Mayorong	Gilberto Dumlao	Gregorio Pena Jr.	Felisena Cruz Abello	Ferdinand Mendez	Fernando Santos	Fedlan Villaflor
George Fabian	Hipolito Mejia	Inocencio Habulo	Ira Mae Rentio	Irene Pagsigan	Jamel Bolongaon	Jamal Bryan Tuzo
Jesus Bautista	Jason Bautista	Jocelyn Cervantes	Joel Dominguez	Jonathan Abrigo	Jun Hernandez	Marites Bautista
Marjorie Montenegro	Marvin Tena	Mary Jane Samano	Mary Lou Pagud	Melinda Avila	Nestor Cuanan	Mercedes Miranda
Milagros Dimaandal	Mildred Jumawan	Nelson Mesadque	Nepthali Bote	Nestor Cuanan	Paul Christian Jalmonte	Raquel Rodolfo
Renato Marcelino	Randerson Tangonan	Reynaldo Aldaben	Reynaldo Pira	Raime Zamora	Robert Sapalaran	Rodolfo Arellano
Ruben Rabilan	Romeo Dizon	Romeo Jugad	Samuel Concepcion	Sherica Dion Cabugao	Shirley Mondejaya	Smith Iberia
Vicente Bandoan						
Wilson Ramos						

₱2,000 Bigas GCs

Arnaldo Kalaunan	Antonio Cua	Arlene Zabala	Arsenio Caagoy	Carlito Dillondo	Cecilia Peruzo	Domingo Serrano
Ernesto Dizon	Fabio Tolosa	Fidel San Pedro	Gilberto Ramirez	George Dingasa	Gerson Rosario	Gerry Galdangag
Jean Cadelina	Johanna Hernandez	John Quirino	Jonnalyn Taquiral	Jun Gutierrez	Lean Marie Bilon	Manuel Dennis Carlos
Marino Pinili	Margaret Rose Antonio	Mary Grace Figueroa	Merle Aquino	Michael Conde	Nessias Salazar	Oliver Mercon
Primitivo Mayor	Rogelio Lorenzo	Rolldan Max Tolongco	Romeo Galvez			

₱3,000 Dept. Store GCs

Angelina Tio	Dean Sumong	Frelie Abenion	Hazel Rita	Ignacio Moreno	Jose Serapio III	Larry Datugan
Laurence Rodrigo	Marcelino Jovencio Jr.	Mark Joseph Jimeno	Michael Reyes	Randy Tanio	Rosanna Tello	Shariane Mae Aranda
Sonny Boy Bautista	Trinidad Arroyo					

Washing Machine

Alfredo Zagarra	Diego Reyes, Jr.	Ignacio Ginsoca	Jennifer Asuncion	Jennifer Zubieverria	Joel Colcuevtas	Joel Lantin
Johnny Ty	Mario Estrada	Pedro Cardona	Reynaldo Cleofe	Rogelio Allego	Roman Pagsisi	Roly Angeles
Rudy Jacinto	Wilfredo Abrenica					

Microwave Oven

Albert Espiritu	Alexander Temperante	Bruce Chua	Carlito Santos	Joe Tamaya Jr.	Junie Valdez	Noel Quintanayan
Oliver Fabrias	Robert Medrano	Rosemarie Yancia	Santiago Halcon	Sharwin Ching	Shirley Nicolas	Sven Sy
Wilfredo Mercado	Yenard Villaris					

32.5lcm Colored TV

Angel Gonzo	Edwin Sioco	Jan Angelo Mae Bernal	Jasper Tejiral	Mardelyn Batongan	Melonia Enrico Lotoc	Reynaldo Cornejo
Rolando Ruiseco						

Personal Rel

Alex Wolinski	Bayani Pascual	Cesar Antonio	Eugenio Ayson	Fernando Diaz	James Andres	Rudie Ignacy Abri Salinggan
Jaime Lorayo						

Sala Set

Alejandro Reynoles	Alfredo Hicalao	Cezar Cruz	Macasgan Mila	Miguel Papa	Rolly Emocal	Vicente Cruz
Victor Collado						

Bicycle

Carlito Santos	Dennis Peralta	Efren Quintanilla	Joseph Estrimos	Marvin Zaguirre	Richard Regacho	Rosendo Pascual
Rudren Silvano						

SOUTH LUZON

Rice Cooker

Alexander Severo	Antonio Cuevas Jr.	Arnel Reyes Carle	Arsenio Arnel Gonsolves	Carlito Aguilar	Celerino Sayagulleg	Danilo Berroya Jr.
Erlanio Abecia Jr.	Ernesto Fiesta	Filipina Avilez	Franklin Soriano	Geraldine Perez	Jake James Chico	Kenie Amagaine
Lemuel Arroyo	Lowalbert Cuevas	Rizzay Cuevas	Marshall Kalleve	Marvin Tenyong	Nonie Anatalmedo	Rosalyn Arillano
Rosalinda Marcial Bonilla	Ruben Jamin	Yolando Manzo				

Gas Range

Allen Balucas	Allan Zabala	Amelita De Castro	Apolinario Bello	Arnulfo Chanes	Arsenio Ofiral	Arvin Bragas
Bienchito Quiterion	Bella Calleja	Cesar Abaya	Cherrell Medina	Dante Alcoseba	Eduardo De Guzman	Eleuterio Santos
Elmo Rosay	Hernor Cabungcal	Gener Rodriguez	Elizabeth Ortiz	Elpidio Monte	Ginny Lagera	Jerry Pascual
Gutlet Sugan	Marcon Marcelino	Imelda Tadiosa	Jesus Cruz	Ephaette Cordovez	Jojo Alin	Jonathan Gonzales
Larry Lee	Marites May Dominguez	Rida Adarves	Mylene Hasabemal	Nonoor Hernandez	Nolan Alinea	Nilo Lanuzeta
Nelia Pamela	Philson Perez	Reed Tellaroche	Rodolfo Pamplona	Roberto Andrade	Ramon Salazar	Romeo Jusayan
Roman Perez	Romeo Salina	Ruben Jaime Leandro	Shannaine Galeyna	Sonia Mendejar	Wenold Narvasa	

₱2,000 Bigas GCs

Arnel Bernal	Arsenio Roque Lacalle	Cynthia Manjarres	Dalhour Esguerra	Elet Cabrera	Elvis Lim	Emilio Sajul Jr
Erlando Estrellado	Gerardo Ramos B.	Jeffrey Mendoza	Jonathan Ramirez	Jonelle Lim	Ma. Victoria Flordeliz	Marvin Dimla
Mary Grace Ivangelo	Melvin De Leon	Randy Lucas	Roberto Ormos	Ronnie De Asus	Roque Rapal	Sandra Alcasabe
Sarwin Eusane	Vergen Silva	Wilfredo Fontinozio				

₱3,000 Dept. Store GCs

Cipriano Cuellar	Dominic Symeon	Dorwin Arbay	Emilio Sioco	Enrique Magana		
Ferdinand Coronado	Julio Bonifacio	Napoleon Villena	Reynaldo Polea	Rolando Evangelio		
Rosalie Silvio	Libby Padre					

Washing Machine

Bienchito Gunot	Fernando Capitol	Cesar Elvis Gasas	Danny Arangorodo	Orlando Jose Bellas		
Jak Galarao	Jelmy Alegre	Jomin Ilgo	Jonah Crucial	Marcelino Villaverde Jr.		
Marianne Recto	Rolandolorenzo					

Microwave Oven

Amiela Amante	Belinda Cruz	Cherrie Reyes	Elmer Monteboso	Jimmy Guinsatao		
Gilbert Fabrigas	Jaime Carpeno	Ma. Orlean Barrete	Mario Albino	Rosalino Rosa		
Ronald Guevarra	Yusuf Mangumalo					

32.5lcm Colored TV

Bimo Sierra	Jaime Chaneco	Jeffrey Pedino	Jeanevie Bendaldes	Joseph Cordenas		
Noel Agonoy						

Personal Rel

Albert Cajido	Bernard Gudoski	Francis Guimalo	Gregorio Mulingtapang	Ma. Belinda Rimando		
Mario Villaceres						

Sala Set

Edgar Dela Cruz Jr.	Imelda Fajardo	Jerome John Catamong	Lourdes Elorat	Raymundo Pedernal		
Rolando Evangelio						

Bicycle

Ino Bandal	Jacinto Segui	Nonoy Belando	Rosella Marie Aquino	Villour Verluzio		
Wenaldyn Montesin						

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MANNY PACQUIAO greets supporters in yesterday's kickoff rally in Sarangani.

CHAMP'S ENDORSEMENT

Loren on Cloud 9 with Pacman

VICE PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE LOREN Legarda was on Cloud Nine aboard a Philippine Airlines flight to General Santos City yesterday morning after world boxing champion Manny Pacquiao suddenly endorsed her candidacy for the May elections.

"Pacquiao formally endorsed Sen. Legarda on a flight going to Gensan today," said a staff member of Legarda who was with her to a text message.

Pacquiao stood up and personally introduced her to Legarda during the flight.

Legarda was said to be surprised but thrilled to hear the good news.

In November, the world champion expressed support for Nacionalista Party standard-bearer Manuel Villar's presidential candidacy right after his victory over Miguel Zubiri.

Villar, Legarda's running mate, was on the same flight.

Pacquiao told reporters during the flight that they both "share the same experience, that's why they should work together on the same programs and advocacies—to end poverty and provide education and health care," the staff member quoted the boxer as saying.

The MP tandem and some members of the ecumenical dasa arrived at 9 a.m. at the General Santos City Airport where they quickly held a press conference in which Pacquiao raised the hands of Villar and Legarda before the start of the motorcade.

"Manny Pacquiao is a national treasure, and I am grateful for his endorsement," Legarda said.

"Manny Pacquiao makes me proud to be Pinoy, and even prouder that he is with us in the campaign. He has shown us what good old-fashioned hard work and determination can achieve. So I admit: Mayang" she said.

Legarda is the godmother of Pacquiao's youngest daughter, Queen Elizabeth.

They immediately held a motorcade through the streets of Manairo, Kiamba and Maitum to kick off Pacquiao's congressional bid in Sarangani province.

The motorcade was capped by a grand rally in the Kiamba gym attended by thousands of supporters.

The champ is MP's official congressional bet in Sarangani against businessman Roy Cajanglog.

Villar said that Pacquiao was "ready to run-life" in Sarangani," throwing his all-out support behind Pacquiao's second foray into politics as the campaign period for local positions started. Pacquiao ran and lost in his congressional bid in General Santos against incumbent Darlene Antonino in 2007. He has since drafted residence in his wife's home province.

"I'm promised Manny (Pacquiao) that I will attend the opening salvo of his campaign, and our support for his congressional bid will continue," said Villar, noting the warm welcome accorded to the champion in Sarangani.

Michael Lim Ubac

Poll watchdog wants time to study party-list

By Kristine L. Alave

ELECTION WATCHDOG KONTRA DAYA yesterday asked the Commission on Elections (Comelec) to extend the period for the filing of challenges against re-entrants of questionable party-list groups.

Kontra Daya convenors Fr. Joe Dizon and Sonnie Reyes, in asked the Comelec law department to scrutinize the nominees of some groups, saying they said could be used by the Arroyo administration to sit in Congress in the House of Representatives.

They also asked the poll body for a list of the nominees for party-lists, which was put in place to allow the marginalized and underrepresented sectors to have a voice in the legislative process.

The Comelec law department said it will accept nominations until last night. As of yesterday afternoon, 120 party-list groups have submitted the names of their representatives. There are 187 party-list registrations in the ballot.

"At this level, the Comelec should see to it that those people or groups with questionable standing will be excluded from the list. Five days is too short a time considering that there are 187 groups that we have to study," Reyes said.

Bro. Eddie: No surrender

By Dona Pazzibugan

EVANGELIST-TURNED-PRESIDENTIAL candidate Eduardo "Brother Eddie" Villanueva maintained that he will not back out and that he will not allow another gun-shoved candidate to benefit from his support base.

"I am to win. So me else will benefit from the votes of our loyal supporters because I will not withdraw from the race," Villanueva said in Filipino in a statement from Madaya City where he campaigned recently.

He added: "This fight is not my personal fight but an extensive crusade to uphold our beloved nation."

His statement issued by his Bangon Pilipinas party also snubbed a denial by Puerto Princesa Mayor Edward Hagedorn of an earlier report quoting him that Villanueva might consider supporting another candidate.

In his Villanueva consistently ranks sixth in pre-election surveys made by the Social Weather Stations and Pulse Asia.

The founder and leader of the Jesus is Lord Movement has repeatedly dismissed such pre-election surveys saying these did not reflect real popular sentiment.

Villanueva is running for the second time for president after he lost in the 2004 elections.

He said his running mate, former senator Gen chairman Perfecto Yasay Jr., and eight Bangon Pilipinas senatorial candidates are also running under the platform "six years of zero corruption."

"I amassi in consistent formula (how who believe in the capability of Bangon Pilipinas to eradicate corruption in the next six years," Villanueva said.

JUSTICE CHIEF'S TOUR
Newly appointed Secretary of Justice Alberto Agra is welcomed by Immigration Commissioner Marcelino Libanan during a visit this week to the Bureau of Immigration, one of the attached agencies of the department. Agra visited the bureau to see for himself the innovations implemented in the agency, including the stick-on visa for arriving foreigners. Joining Libanan in welcoming Agra was Associate Commissioner Roy Almonte.

CAVITE HIGHWAY Presidential candidate Gilbert "Gibo" Teodoro reaches out to supporters lined up near the MRT Ortigas station during their campaign motorcade along Edsa. The Metro Manila Development Authority has painted over the pink structures along the busy highway with the color green.

Let Cebuanos decide, Gibo tells Osmeña

By TJ Burgonio and Jhoiness Magallanes, Inquirer Visayas

CEBU CITY—IT IS THE CEBUANOS WHO will decide the presidential candidate they will vote in the ballots.

The camp of administration standard bearer Gilbert "Gibo" Teodoro yesterday gave this rejoinder to the claim of former Sen. Sergio Osmeña III that Liberal Party candidate Sen. Benigno "Noynoy" Aquino III had a look at the voter preference.

Lakas-Kampi-CMD secretary general Ronaldo Mamgabayan said he wasn't surprised that Osmeña, who is seeking a Senate seat under the LP, would make that kind of prediction.

"He's saying that because he's campaigning for Noynoy," he said in a phone interview. "But neither Serge nor former mayor Alvin Garcia will decide that. The people will decide."

Osmeña had claimed that the province remained "Kuya's country," referring to the late Senate President Gerardo C. Aquino, and that her son was leading the race three by a mile.

Kickoff rally

Teodoro and some of the senatorial candidates in his party flew to the province yesterday afternoon to attend the kick-off of the local campaign of Gov. Gwendolyn Garcia amid reports that key allies of the administration party had defected to the camp of Nacionalista Party presidential bet, Manuel Villar Jr.

Teodoro and the candidates were set to join Gov. Garcia, members of the Garcia political clan and several mayors in a rally at the provincial capital late night in a "show of force."

Mamgabayan said it was premature for anybody to claim that this or that presidential candidate had a lock on the votes of the entire province.

"Cebuanos vote intelligently. And once they focus on the platform of government and programs of our candidates, we're confident that they'll swing to our side," he said.

Add to that the machinery of the administration coalition, which counts the support of more than 60 percent of local officials, and the strength of the Garcia-led "One Cebu," Mamgabayan said.

Guess for Gibo

"Tonight we will see how solidly Gwen is behind Gibo," he said.

"Besides, it's easy to carry Gibo because he comes across as an honest and decent fellow. He has everything in one package. Moreover, he's running a positive campaign," he said.

Garcia founded One Cebu, which definitely the votes for Presidential Arroyo-ops in the bitterly contested 2004 presidential vote, giving her a one-million vote margin over actor Fernando Poe Jr.

It is bad to dispel rumors that she had backed out of supporting Teodoro. Garcia repeatedly pushed the candidacy of the administration standard bearer when she spoke at various stops of the One Cebu campaign caravan held to southern Cebu town yesterday.

Garcias split

Talks that the Garcia family had shifted their support from Teodoro to Villar started after the latter was seen meeting with One Cebu congressmen, including the governor's father, 2nd district Rep. Pablo Garcia and 3rd district Rep. Odilon John Garcia, on Wednesday.

Garcia, however, denied that she had turned her back on Teodoro in a meeting with One Cebu members Wednesday night. She said that she continued to support Teodoro.

But her cousin, Alvin Garcia, had removed any alliance with Villar's NP which was formalized in the signing of an agreement on Wednesday.

Although she was welcomed by Bantayog Mayor Celso Sarmiento, a known supporter of Villar, at the municipal hall grounds, Garcia emphasized her support for Teodoro when she spoke during a food program.

Wyeth

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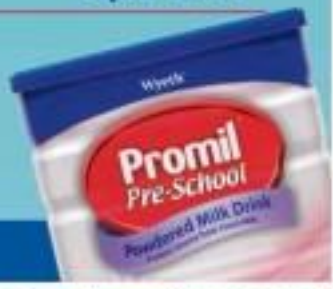

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MANIFESTO OF SUPPORT

We, the graduates of the Philippine National Police Academy (PNPA) from all units of the Philippine National Police (PNP) do hereby declare our unwavering commitment to the aspirations and initiatives of the PNP to promote and uphold the rule of law and respect for the democratic institutions and systems of governance in connection with the forthcoming national and local elections.

Believing in the ideals and overwhelming gains of the PNP Integrated Transformation Program (PNP-ITP), we solemnly and honorably rally our support behind the PNP leadership in their earnest efforts to sustain the reform advocacy in the police organization towards excellent and quality service to the Filipino people.

Conceding that the current PNP direction in ensuring an Honest, Orderly, Peaceful and Credible Elections (H.O.P.E.) is a real measure of the degree of internalization of the reform movement in the police service, we strongly believe in the enlightened capability of the PNP leadership to bring into fruition the constitutional role of the police in our country.

Propelled by our desire for genuine change and transformation and to be worthy of the trust and confidence of the Filipino people, we professed ourselves to defend the PNP as a professional and disciplined organization always bearing in our minds and in our hearts the welfare of the institution and the people we serve and protect.

We have been forged in adversity and will continue to honorably answer the call of our duty.

For God, Country and our beloved organization, the Philippine National Police.

Done this 25th day of March, 2010, Quezon City, Philippines.

PSSUPT JIMMY U RIVERA '83
President, PNPPAAI

PCSUPT DANILO Q ABARZOSA
Makabayan Class 80

PSSUPT TOMAS G RENDOY III
President, Magiting Class 83

PSSUPT CEDRICK G TRAIN
Makatarungan Class 84

PSSUPT LURIMER B DETRAN
Tagapagtanggol Class 86

PSSUPT MARLO S MENESES
Tagapagtaguyod Class 87

PSSUPT JOSE A RONCESVALLES
President, Tagapagtaguyod Class 88

PSSUPT ROMULO S MACAPAGAL
Tagapagbuklod Class 89

PSUPT ISHMEL A ARCILLA
Tagapagkalinga Class 91

PSUPT MARTIN E DEPOSOR, JR
Tagapagtanggol Class 93

PSUPT DINDO R REYES
President, Pathfinder Class 95

PSUPT ANTONIO B VIERNES
Magiting Class 83

PSUPT RANDOLPH R DELFIN
Makatarungan Class 84

PSSUPT CLARENCE V BUENTO
Magiting Class 83

PSSUPT ARMANDO F BOLALIN
Makabayan Class 85

PCI EMANUEL SL ENRIQUEZ
Tagapagsulong Class 92

PSUPT ANDRE P DIZON
Sandigan Class 94

PSUPT MARLON Z SAPLA
Sandigan Class 94

PSSUPT VILLAMOR Q TULIAO
Kawaksan Class 96

PSUPT ROMAN C ARUGAY
Kapanalig Class 93

PSUPT FREDERICK E OBAR
President, Kabalikat Class 98

PINSP CAESAR IAN C BINUYAL
Makatao Class 2010

AMID POWER CRISIS

Ibazeta is new energy chief

By Jerry S. Bacus

THE HEAD OF THE POWER Sector assets and Liabilities Management Corp. (Psalm) has been appointed as the new officer-in-charge of the Department of Energy.

Former Psalm president Jose C. Ibazeta will replace Angelo T. Reyes, who served as energy secretary for the past 21 months.

Reyes made the announcement yesterday as the turnover ceremony where he also endorsed his rose morning for a congressional seat to represent the party-list group 1-Ukad.

"For a long time people had been telling me to enter politics, but I told initially that I don't have the inclination or even personality to be a politician," he told guests yesterday.

Transport rep

"I have decided to file my certificate of candidacy (COC) as party-list representative of 1-Ukad. It is my humble opinion that I can best serve my countrymen in the House of Representatives," Reyes said.

Reyes' plan was assailed by the left-leaning Bukluran sa Manggagawang Pilipino (Bumalukayo).

In a statement, Bumalukayo national chair Fernando Hicap and Pamalukayo vice chair Ludovico Feliciano said Reyes' plans to lead 1-Ukad as its first nominee runs a "first-rate murder and injustice prostitution of the party-list system in the country."

Reyes endorsed Ibazeta, saying he runs "really knowledgeable and confident that the one taking over the reins of the Department of Energy is a man of the moment and caliber."

"I've once the President made the right decision in placing in the hands of Ibazeta the responsibility of charting the direction for the Department of Energy," Reyes added.

Power crisis

Ibazeta, who had served in Malis president since 2007, said his top priority as the OIC of the DOE was tackling the mini power supply problem in Mindanao.

"The most important thing now is the situation in Mindanao, so we have to address that. It has short-, medium- and long-term ramifications so we'll have to address that very quickly. Time is running short in Mindanao. That will probably be the most important thing I'll be doing in the next few months or so," Ibazeta said.

According to Ibazeta, he intends to address the power shortages "from the point of view of how to achieve with the least cost to government."

"It has the nature of an emergency because of the requirements of power in Mindanao, but I think we're tasked at least the long-term point of view because if (COC) just keeping generators and solving it in the next six months. There are long-term possibilities that loom," Ibazeta said.

Ibazeta also said he had recommended a person to replace him as Psalm but declined to disclose a name.

Prior to his stint as president of Psalm, Ibazeta was director and treasurer of the International Container Terminals Services Inc. (ICTSI) from 1987 to February 2007.

He had also served as a consultant to the chairman of A. Soriano Corp. (Ansoro).

Storm veers away

By Alcuin Papa

TROPICAL STORM "AGATON" (International name "Omais") is on its way out without dumping any rain on any part of the country.

According to the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa), as of 11 a.m. Friday, the center of Agaton was spotted 1,860 kilometers east of Aparri, Cagayan.

The storm is packing maximum sustained winds of 85 kph near the center and with gustiness of up to 60 kilometers per hour.

The weather system is moving north northeast at 11 kph.

By Saturday morning, Pagasa said it expects "Agaton" to be 1,040 km east northeast of Aparri, Cagayan; 1,230 km east northeast of Aparri by Sunday morning; and 1,360 km east northeast of Basco, Batanes by Monday morning.

Ben Pedrito, Pagasa weather forecaster, said cloudy weather in Metro Manila on Friday was due mainly to the tail-end of a cold front moving from northern Luzon to southern Luzon.

PWU graduation today

THE PHILIPPINE WOMEN'S UNIversity will hold its 97th graduation exercises today at 9 a.m. at the Philippine International Convention Center in Pasay City with Jesus S. Concepcion III, president and chief executive officer of BDO Corp. and prominent entrepreneur for entrepreneurship as commencement speaker.

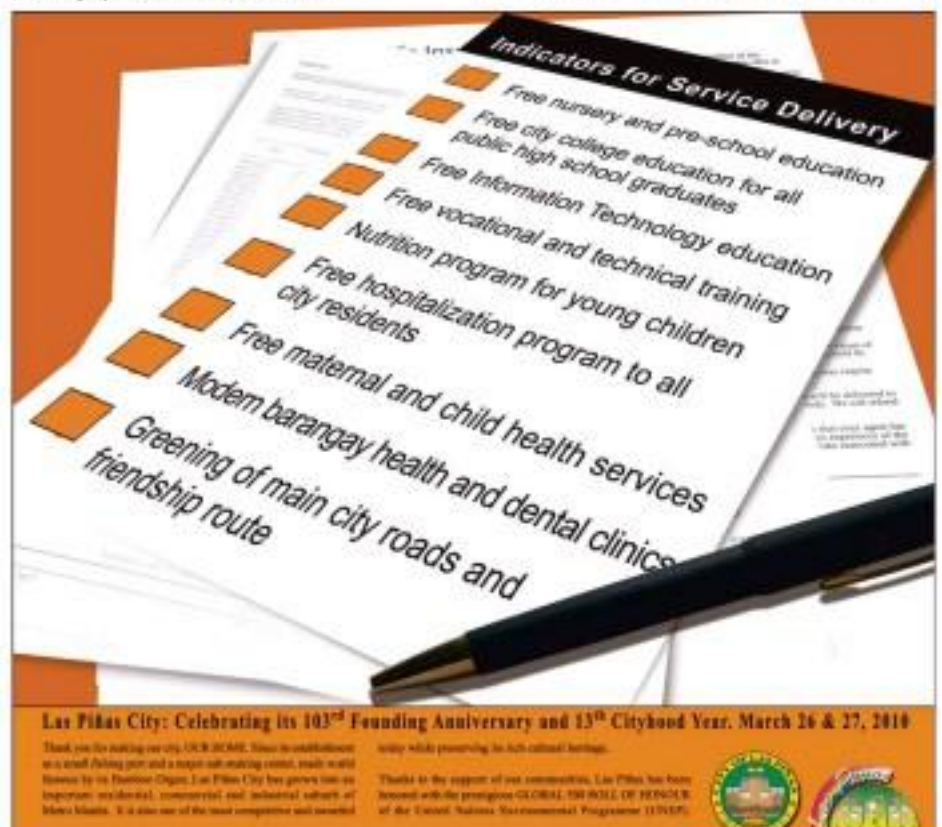
Antonio Abacan Jr., chairperson of Metrobanc, Bank and Trust Company, will be conferred the doctor of humanities, honoris causa by Dr. Emmanuel Angeles, dean of the Commission on Higher Education, assisted by PWU chairperson Dr. Helena Z. Benitez and CEO and trustee Alfredo S. Benitez.

PWU said it was citing Abacan for "elevating business leadership into the higher realm of humanitarianism through corporate social responsibility." The citation will be read by vice board chairperson Manuel S. Alba.

Concepcion will likewise be conferred the Gregorio Aglipay Heritage Award for "bringing his personal qualities, abilities and achievements into altruistic endeavorism and civil society responsibilities."

Pre-Nit graduating students, including Masters degree holders led by Nicil Reyes Angel, five honorable members from the School of Hospitality Management and Food Science, will be presented by Reyes, assisted by registrars Lilia Beltran and Irene Montilla.

The year's chairperson of the commencement committee is Dr. Zenaida Sadiwa, with Dr. Amelita Cuerdon as co-chair.



'Win-win' for GMA; Speaker or not, she is trouble

From page A1

He added, "Whether she is Speaker or minority leader of the House, with 90 congressmen behind her she is in a position to undermine the next president.

"It will be a win-win situation for her. If she gets 136 members of the 279-person House, she succeeds in the Speaker's throne. If she loses and becomes the minority leader with 90 diehards, she can still torpedo her successor."

House as command post

Bitag said it was becoming clear that Mr. Arroyo would use the House as "a command post from where she will direct the wage of the [next] presidency."

"With just 90 members, she can dangle the 'impeachment' sword of Damocles' over the head of [her successor]. If she succeeds in casting up enough votes to [get herself elected] as Speaker, she can do a lot of mischief," he said.

According to Bitag, Mr. Arroyo is "clearly hoping very early political insurance."

"Because she knows she will at least be [out of power] by about to be committed to her time even in power, she is building up her relationship capability," he said.

But Mr. Arroyo will "first attempt to strike a deal" with her successor, Bitag said.

He said a new administration "with a backbone as hard as [teflon floor" might accept that deal, but not, he claimed, that led by Perena ng Bisaang Pilipino standard-bearer Sen. Benigno Aquino III.

UNTHINKABLE NO LONGER And now a reality—a President running for Congress. Campaign posters of President Arroyo dot the landscape of the second district of Pampanga.

At a press conference yesterday in Valenzuela City, Aquino said he doubted that Mr. Arroyo could become Speaker.

"No matter what allies [like 1986 Edsa People Power Revolution], there has been no Speaker who was not allied with the [new] administration. [Mr. Arroyo] has explained this in a very long manner. I doubt that if she is not Speaker in Malacañang, all the people [in the House] will still be her allies," he said.

In an earlier interview, Aquino said that since the President controlled the release of the pork barrel funds, the members of the House were likely to leave their allegiance to her party loyalties but on whoever was occupying Malacañang.)

Aquino, however, said it might be possible for Mr. Arroyo to become the Speaker if the opposition Party standard-bearer loses. Manuel Villar wins the presidency.

He made the remark in reference to continuing talk that Mr. Villar was Mr. Arroyo's secret candidate.

But he added that he could not speak on Villar's behalf.

'Prime Minister-GMA'

Superimposed standard-bearer Sen. Richard Gordon noted that was seeing in reaction to the [candidacy] people [will] be to clinch the presidency for Mr. Arroyo.

"They are going to amend the Constitution and install her as prime minister?" Gordon said, adding that he would not allow such a development to happen if his administration should be win as president.

"I will oppose that," he said.

Gordon went on to call on voters all over the country to vote wisely: "People who don't want that [scenario] to happen should not vote for her in Pampanga."

In an earlier interview Gordon told the Inquirer that he was against Mr. Arroyo's decision to seek a seat in the House.

"I think she is trying to protect herself," he said.

If Mr. Arroyo wins as a congressional, Gordon said, she would enjoy immunity from arrest for offenses carrying less than six years' imprisonment as penalty.

"I don't favor her running for Congress. But this is a free country. If the people in Pampanga see it wise enough for them to have a representative to the person of Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, the whole country cannot impose on Pampanga," he said.

But Mr. Arroyo will not go unchallenged under a Coalition of Administration.

"I will support a Speaker who will follow my program and who will work with me. I will choose someone who is responsible," Estrada said in reference to Speaker Arroyo's rival, Speaker of the Philippine National Red Cross (Quezon City chapter) yesterday afternoon.

He then took a swipe at Villar who once served as Speaker.

"Did you read that list?" Estrada said, declaring that while no agenda can be forgotten or beneath the poor was produced under Villar's speakership, he was now presenting himself as a pro-poor candidate. With reports from Gil C. Cabacungan Jr. and Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

Local political road show off and running; rise in violence feared

From page A1

marred by allegations of corruption and vote-cheating, is not the only element of drama and color in this election season.

Global hunting superstar Manny Pacquiao is running for his home congressional seat of Sarangani province while the irrepressible Imelda Marcos, the widow of the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos, is running for a congressional seat in Ilocos Norte. (See story on Page A11.)

Election-related violence

But one of the unsettling themes in the local elections is set to be the likelihood of candidate being shot dead before polling day with dozens of people killed in election-related violence in recent months.

Another Ramon Casiple of the Center for Anti-Electoral Reform said the possibility of violence in poll violence was to be expected with elections more than a month away.

He noted that although poll-related violence went down after the Nov. 23, 2009, Ampatuan massacre, this should not be a reason for people to relax.

"Peace has been shocked and jarred by the magnitude of that incident, as poll-related incidents after that were done, but it's possible that election violence will go up as the campaign period starts, because this is the last chance for everyone," Casiple said.

The Center here on Electoral Reform yesterday presented the results of its monitoring on election-related violence since the official start of the election period on January.

It reported 39 election-related deaths for the period from Jan. 10 to March 25, with the Bicol region having the most number of incidents.

The most number of violent election-related incidents in Bicol occurred in Masbate, with 10 out of 11.

Of the 39 fatalities, 12 were candidates while 11 were officials. The report noted that most operations were carried out by motorcycle-riding gunmen.

"The high number of fatalities shows an alarming state of cases in the country. This character of the incidents is premeditated. It means that the acts of violence are planned with identified targets," the report said.

Be vigilant

Casiple said there were indicators of possible poll violence even before the Maguindanao massacre of 57 people, but these incidents were not recorded because the official election period had not yet begun.

"The citizens [wanted to strongly for Maguindanao] that the incidents in some hotspots went down. But we can expect the incidents to go up again," he explained.

Casiple said people should not let down their guard even with the automated elections on May this year.

"The automated election is not the answer to cheating, in long as there are people who want to control fund, there will be cheating. Automation will speed up the counting of votes, but it won't completely stop cheating," he said.

"A possible effect of automation is that the incidents of poll violence may even go up. Because if it's harder to cheat with automation, why not just resort to killing the person?" Casiple said.

Northern, Central Luzon

For the rest of northern and Central Luzon, the first day for local campaigns displayed equal measures of pomp and exuberance—and familiar political names.

In Ilocos Sur, Luis "Chavit" Singson, the province's political kingpin, announced that his hand-designated as Lakas-Kampi regional standard-bearer and declared himself an indepen dent candidate for governor.

The certificate of candidacy identifies him as an administration candidate, but Singson said he had to address his differences with Gilbert Teodoro Jr., the administration standard-bearer.

"When Gibo was secretary of defense, he did not give me an appointment. Despite my many attempts for us to meet, he did not give me time," said Singson, who is a presidential assistant for Mindanao affairs.

"I have no presidential ambitions yet," Singson said.

He said he would let his announcement come from among three candidates—Ilocos Norte Governor Imee Marcos, Nueva Ecija Governor Aurelio Umali and Ilocos Sur Governor Deogracias Victor Savellano.

Battle of loudspeakers

In most provinces, residents woke up to a battle of loudspeakers.

In Dagupan City, downtown streets turned pink when Gov. de Venecia, the wife of former Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr., led a convoy of vehicles festooned with pink ribbons and balloons.

De Venecia is running for the congressional seat that her husband vacates in June. She was joined by motorcycle Mayor Alipio Fernandez Jr. and motorcycle Vice Mayor Belen Fernandez, who started their campaign in the city's eastern village "where the sun rises."

The town's clock tield Mass in a small chapel in Bantaan. Former Rep. Benjamin Lim is running against Fernandez, while Lim's wife, Celia, is running against De Venecia.

In San Fabian, Isabela, reelectionist Gov. Maria Gracia Cielo Padaca engaged political rival Isabelo Jaq. Sanchez Dy III by attending the campaign sendoff rally of Sanchez's wife, Faustina Dy III, for re-election to the House of Representatives in 10 terms. Critics claimed that her convoy included vehicles bearing government plates.

Dy flew by helicopter to Tuguegarao City to campaign in his home town.

Visayas

In the Visayas, candidates kicked off their campaigns with motorcade rallies, assemblies and caravans.

Cebu Gov. Gwendolyn Garcia and her allies attended Mass in Dumaguete town while her main rival, former Cebu City Councilor Gloria Claraldo III, the son of former Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr., heard Mass in Bacolod City.

In the provinces of Iloilo, Aklan, Capiz and Biliran, supporters of candidates blanketed streets and public places with posters and streamers advertising gun-toting midnight Friday, even outside the designated areas.

In Amadeo Alvarez, the spokesperson of the Iloilo Archdiocese in Leyte, urged candidates to refrain from personal attacks and focus on the programs instead as more than 3,000 local candidates in Eastern Visayas hit the campaign trail.

In Tacloban City, candidates started rewriting the more than 100,000 voters in a motorcade that caused a traffic jam in the city's major streets while in Calbayog City, Western Samar, several candidates marched in the first day of the campaign period by attending Mass in their hometowns.

Father, son switch places

In Ormoc City, the Lakas-Kampi-CMD candidates held a Mass in the afternoon at the MacArthur Speech Center, just across the ancestral house of the Codillas while the Liberal Party candidates led by actor Richard Gomez, who was the candidates' town running for the fourth-district congressional seat, and Marcos Carpentino joined a caravan.

Outgoing Northern Samar Gov. Raul Daza and his son Incumbent Rep. Paul Daza held a rally at the Balsan Hall in the provincial Capitol.

The elder Daza is running for the first district congressional seat while his son is running for governor.

In Bacolod City, the start of the local election campaign in Negros Oriental was marred by a motorcycle accident that claimed the life of Rodolfo Gimenez, 56, a provincial board member who was running for reelection under the Liberal Party.

Mindanao

According to the police report, Martinez had just come from his farm and was returning to his home when a speeding motorcycle coming from the opposite direction hit him head on.

In Cotabato Province (CP), Pedro Guingona, who yesterday after his victory against Chairman Joshua Clemeno with 50 presidential bet Villar and Defensor's running mate, Sen. Loren Legarda, in Iloilo.

The crowd chanted "Winnie, Winnie" as Guingona emerged from the airport arrival area at about 9 a.m.

From the airport, Pacquiao's convoy of more than 40 vehicles proceeded to Guingona's provincial.

Pacquiao told a crowd of about 3,000 gathered at the Winnie's town plaza that he was running because he wanted to accomplish many things for them.

He was expected to hold the barangay leader rally of his candidacy in Kamba town last Friday.

Main campaigner

Pacquiao's mother, Dionisia, said she did not question her son's decision to run for office.

"I will support whatever he will support," she said.

Dionisia said she will be her son's main campaigner.

Villar said Pacquiao supporting him because they were both from Mindanao and he'd be become financially stable.

At the airport press conference, Pacquiao said he allied with Villar not because the NP candidate had the reputation of having more money than other bets.

"We don't talk about money. I'm just convinced he can help our country especially the poor because we both came from humble beginnings," he said.

Pacquiao admitted that Villar offered to provide him with campaign funds but he refused it.

Imelda opens bid with 'kiss of death'; she makes a comeback at 80

From page A1

official day of campaigning for the May 10 local elections.

Emerging from more than a decade of political obscurity, Marcos strode back into the scene with a vengeance.

Her hair coiffed back and wearing a bright orange terno with jade and diamond jewelry, she led jubilant supporters in a motorcade from the mausoleum of Ferdinand Marcos.

She momentarily kissed his glass coffin in camera range. "This is one of your many last trips here," she said.

Dressed in black and then white on a flatbed campaign truck bedecked with balloons and posters in diamonds, she cheered her along the way. She was flanked by her daughter Irene, who is running for governor in Ilocos Norte.

Her son, Ferdinand "Bong-bong" Marcos Jr., is seeking a Senate seat.

Asked if she will push his long-standing campaign to have her husband buried in the national heroes' cemetery in Manila if she wins, Marcos replied, "Of course."

His burial there has been opposed by officials amid public outrage after Marcos—accused of corruption, political repression and widespread human rights abuses—was ousted in a 1986 "people power" revolt and died in exile in Hawaii three years later. Imelda and their three children were allowed to return to the Philippines in 1991.

'Love without end'

"My ambition is to serve without end and to love without end," Marcos said in a news conference in a hotel dining room just before her long journey hit the road under a broiling sun.

Afflicted with diabetes and glaucoma, Imelda parried a question about her age.

"It's true I'm 80 years old, but I can't run and I'm a grandmother who can love and embrace the people more than a mother can," Marcos said, drawing applause from friends.

She is forever remembered for the stunning jewels and 1,220 pairs of shoes she left behind in Malacañang palace.

She brought several new gems for her campaign, aides said, and was wearing elegant leather sandals Friday.

Corruption cases

Despite her expectations for victory, Marcos faces a host of challenges to the world's poorest democracies and lavish investment projects in a nation wracked by poverty, the tenuous support even since it was a conspiracy against her in 1995. She ran unopposed in 1992 and against in 1998.

Many Filipinos were incensed by her unashamed opulence, but others, especially the generation born after the 1986 with no memory of martial law or her days as first lady of the regime, view her as a celebrity.

Despite some 900 civil and criminal cases she has faced in Philippine courts since 1991—cases ranging from embezzlement and corruption to tax evasion—she has emerged relatively unscathed and never served a single prison term.

All but a handful of the cases have been dismissed for lack of evidence and a few convictions were overturned on appeal.

'She entertains us'

Marcos is running under her husband's Kilusang Bagong Lipunan (KBL) party which has weakened considerably since his death. In Ilocos Norte, a laid-back province of 500,000 where the late strongman built its network of first roads, airport and seaport are now, the Marcoses are adored.

"This is Marcos country, to die or lose," said village guard Elmer Macaro, who waited to see Imelda in one of the 21 towns she planned to visit Friday.

"She helps us and entertains us and has put us in history," Macaro said.

Clearing the family name remains an obsession, Marcos said.

Until that happens, she said, "I cannot rest."

Locals say the widow has a good chance of winning her seat.

"The people believe how much she did among themselves and it came out 60, 15 in favor of Imelda," said a local social science lecturer. With a report from AFP

8 RDCs back gov't drive vs corruption

EIGHT REGIONAL development councils (RDCs) are now backing the government's anticorruption campaign, according to the Presidential Anti-Graft Commission (PAGC).

They expressed their commitment after the PAGC conducted briefings for 15 RDCs on the integrity Development Action Plan (iDap), the national anticorruption framework for the executive branch.

"Eight of the 15 RDCs have forged their respective resolutions supporting the iDap and are now in various stages of its adoption and implementation," the PAGC chief, Secretary Constancio de Guzman, said in a statement.

De Guzman said the PAGC intended to implement the iDap not only in the national government agencies but also in the local government units and regional line agencies that constituted the RDCs.

4 major areas

The eight RDCs cover Cagayan Valley, Cordillera (Benguet, Ifugao, Mountain Province and Baguio), Central Luzon, Calabarzon (Batangas, Cavite, Laguna, Quezon and Rizal), Mimaropa (Marinduque, Occidental and Oriental Mindoro, Palawan and Romblon), Bicol, Western Visayas, Central Visayas, Eastern Visayas, and Soccsksargen (North and South Cotabato, Sarangani, Sultan Kudarat and Cotabato City).

The iDap, which is anchored on Chapter 23 of the Medium Term Philippine Development Plan, is the blueprint that President Macapagal-Arroyo's administration, embodies the multipronged strategy involving 22 specific and double measures under four major areas of implementation (good governance, education, democracy and social partnership).

Smart offers stress-free travel this summer

SUBSCRIBERS OF SMART COMMUNICATIONS traveling for the Holy Week or for the rest of the summer will have access to a host of services that can make their journey hassle- and worry-free, according to the country's leading wireless provider.

To plot the quickest route to a particular destination and avoid traffic gridlocks, text TRAFFIC to 2066 to "peek" the latest traffic updates and receive a "quick peek" or a list of the available traffic routes to Metro Manila. Retrieving up to the minute traffic information costs only P2.50 per SMS sent.

SMART also offers location-based services. To get the location of a friend or family member, text WH <friend's/relative's name> <mobile number> to 2066 to trigger the registration process and get the approval of the person being tracked. The Person Finder service is available to all Smart subscribers nationwide, and costs only P2.50 to register and P5 per location request.

Another location-based service available is Holy Week Location at Place Finder, which allows subscribers to use their mobile phones to search for establishments nearest their current location. This could be the nearest gasoline station, bank, restaurant, among others. To trigger the Place Finder service, text LOCATE <establishment> to 366, for only P5 per SMS sent. This service is also available to Smart subscribers nationwide.

For a more spiritual celebration of the Holy Week, inspirational services are also available to Smart subscribers nationwide. Text DEVOCIO to 465 to get daily inspirational messages; text BIBLE DW to 2896 to get Bible verses with prayers; or text AMEN to 777 to get daily inspirational quotes. These services cost only P2.50 per day for every subscription.

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INQUIRER

OPINION

Power or impunity

CRITICS OF THE PRESIDENT ARE CONCOCTING wild conspiracy theories, according to Pampanga Rep. Juan Miguel Arroyo. "They have upped the ante by saying that the enemy of five Arroyos now Congress is to ensure that my mother gets elected as speaker so she can assume the presidency in case of a failure of elections," President Macapagal-Arroyo's son said. "But has it escaped their minds that five Arroyos above-comprise then a speaker?"

EDITORIAL

Certainly, five votes will not clinch the speakership for Ms Arroyo, but every vote counts, as anyone running for any office knows. Besides this is not how the critics do their math. Will Mikey Arroyo cry foul?

That is the number of the President's loyal allies seeking seats in the House of Representatives, everyone of them with a good chance of winning, according to a tally done by the Inquirer. (And that is not even counting her former appointees and her relatives seeking entry to the House through the party-list system, like Mikey himself.) With a total of 280 members in the House, 139 votes are more than enough to deliver the speakership to Ms Arroyo. As one of her closest political allies, Batanes Rep. Jose Ma. Evardone, put it, Ms Arroyo would have the needed number of votes to win the speakership if she wanted it.

But is there any doubt that the speakership is what she wants? No one will believe that after wielding all the powers of the presidency for more than nine years, Ms Arroyo would seek a House seat to become just one in 280 members. In fact, some of her official spokesmen have even denied that she is aiming for the top House post. And all moves are calculated to bring her that prize. For one thing, she has given her blessings to at least three of her most trusted Cabinet members—Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita, Agriculture Secretary Arthur Yap and Justice Secretary Agnes Devanadera—to run for Congress. For another thing, her congressional allies are running well-oiled campaigns, fueling suspicions that most of the resources at the disposal of the administration are being concentrated on ensuring that Lakas-Kampi will have a comfortable majority in the House.

Mikey Arroyo tried to allay fears about a power grab in one of a failure of elections by pointing out that the speaker is "only fourth" in the line of succession. (The speaker actually comes third, after the vice president and the Senate president.) "We still have the Senate president," he said. "We have a very functioning and active Senate which would not succeed to block such a move."

True. And Senate President Juan Ponce Enrile has even promised to call for the election of a new Senate president from among the senators who have still not expired as June 30 if it becomes clear that the elections will not produce a new president. But Ms Arroyo is a president who is known to have succeeded in persuading both men and institutions to follow her bidding, and Enrile can always change his mind.

If such a scheme to extend her term fails, Ms Arroyo can still try to regain power by rallying her allies behind an amendment to shift to a parliamentary form of government in which she can be elected prime minister. Or with her leading an army of loyalists in Congress, Ms Arroyo can dangle over the head of the new president the threat of impeachment should he make any move to make her account for the many excesses and abuses during her presidency. In this manner, she can prolong her immunity long after she has stepped down from the presidency.

For Ms Arroyo, the speakership represents the one thing she cannot most, which is power, and the one thing she needs most, which is impunity. She will do anything to get it.

Total disarmament

THE UNITED STATES IS HOSTING A NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION summit in Washington in April and it's likely to push for a new, more effective treaty to check proliferation of nuclear weapons.

FOREIGN COMMENT

Almost inevitably, Iran and its contentious nuclear program are going to be in the spotlight once again. However, no substance is going to work if Obama can't find the elephant in the room.

The goal of "total disarmament for a safer world" will work only when all countries, big and small, embrace it.

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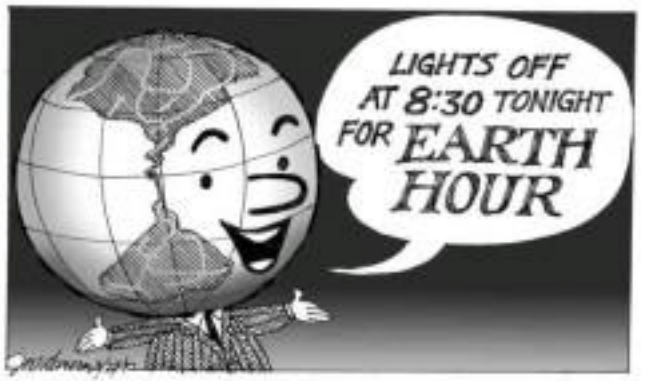


Who will save the Supreme Court?

PUBLIC LIVES

Randy David

THE SUPREME COURT IS THE HIGHEST court of the land. It is the final interpreter of the Constitution—the basic law that enjoins us, the Filipino people, into a distinct nation-state. Indeed, the Constitution is what the Supreme Court says it is. To be able to perform this crucial function in any reliable way, the Court has to be seen as standing above politics. Otherwise, the Constitution loses its power to regulate politics. For this reason, one of the toughest crises that can befall any nation is the erosion of the credibility of its highest court.

This can happen, for instance, when the Court begins rendering decisions—including those that are supposed to be "final and executory." This can also happen when members of the Court become predictable in their judgments, not on account of their philosophical or ideological inclinations, but because of their political loyalties. The result in that situation can no longer look to the Court as a source of stable definitions of what is legal and illegal.

But who will check the Supreme Court when it allows itself to be a tool of partisan strife? In two successive editorials expressing dismay over the recent Supreme Court ruling allowing presidential "midnight appointments," the lessons (*Oct 26, '98; November 28, 1998*) of the political battle between the Court and the executive when Estrada was still in office were the different between right and wrong. That is the one source higher than the Supreme Court.

In fact, the judiciary's authority has no constitute but to the Constitution itself, insofar as that document embodies the people's sovereignty. Unless the existing Constitution is thrashed, only the Court can save itself. Impeachment would not be a solution. To impeach an entire Court for its partisan decisions is to place justice squarely at the mercy of politicians—precisely what is being exercised in the controversial ruling on midnight appointments.

In 1996, following a popular uprising triggered by the military Cory Aquino assumed the presidency. One of her first acts was to throw away the 1973 Constitution, invoking her power under a "Freedom Constitution," she demanded the resignation of the Supreme Court justices identified with the previous regime, and reorganized the entire court. At that moment, it became clear that a constitution is the work of the legal scholar Friedrich Schlegel, "nothing ... but fixed interest, arrested revolution, the second floor or the same time/absolute state."

The country came close to this situation once more in 2001, after mass demonstrations and the subsequent withdrawal of allegiance of the military forced President Joseph Estrada to leave his official residence. On the authority of the entire Court, Chief Justice Hilario Davide swore in Vice President Macapagal-Arroyo as president. The constitutionality of Ms Arroyo's succession to the presidency was promptly questioned before the Court. But, instead of treating it as a political question, the Court took cognizance of the issue and ruled in favor of Ms Arroyo. The unanimous vote of the justices, says Marvin Ving in her book "Shadow of Doubt," "was seen as a matter of survival." She quotes a member of the Court at that time: "If they disowned, then they had to resign since they did not recognize the legitimacy of the government."

It will be seen from these events that the power of the Supreme Court rests on nothing more than what the Constitution gives to it: that this is far from saying that constitutions and the high courts that interpret them serve no real function. They do. That function is basically ideological—to promote the primacy of a non-arbitrary system of a political order that accepts legal limits to its own actions. The German sociologist Niklas Luhmann expressed it more bluntly: "Constitutions in the modern sense of the concept were invented under the protective umbrella of the persisting (medieval) illusion that politics could be constituted as a legal order. And this practice continues in order to make invisible the fact that the real foundations of the sovereignty of political systems are power struggles and the entirely coincidences of political elites."

Let us apply this disarming insight to the current situation in the Supreme Court, especially in relation to the political strategy of Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo. If I ultimate is correct, then it is futile to expect the high court as presently constituted to act as a check on Ms Arroyo. It is a determined, it will always find a legal way to do her bidding. The controlling that matter in the final analysis lie in the realm of politics itself—in the capacity of political players to forge strategic coalitions and muster majorities. Law only provides the formal constellations of what already exists politically.

Many of us are stunned by Ms Arroyo's evasive attitude toward institutions. Unlike ordinary mortals, she seems simply not awed by them. Clearly, her ongoing power as a politician resides in the—that she looks at the law not as a moral guide but merely as a tool of politics. That she comes little value happens in the judiciary as a social institution. That her weapons of choice, ultimately, are coercion and intervention. Not since Marcos has the nation seen a politician quite like her.

* * *

public.lives@gmail.com

Awesome (claims)

GET REAL

Sukhia Collas-Monsod

AN ORGANIZATION I BELONG TO, THE Movement for Good Government (MGG), has, as one of its objectives, raising the level of discussion and quality of information during the election campaign, so that the information that voters obtain on candidates are not just those provided by the candidates themselves (which are naturally going to be self-serving) but have been subjected to scrutiny for either feasibility (as in their platforms), which requires the assessment of experts) or authenticity in regard to their claims, which requires investigation and fact-gathering). That way the voter will be in a much better position to choose their leaders for the next three or six years.

Manny Pangilinan's TV5 has picked up on MGG's work and will jointly sponsor a five-part special series that will in effect showcase the results of this scrutiny and since Sen. Manny Villar's TV and radio ads he entertains for the ads of his opponents, they provide much more grist for an investigation/evaluation's mill.

Take the ad, for example, which roughly translated goes something like this: "Have you experienced sleeping on a short bench on the roadside? Or the death of a brother because you had no money for medicine/proper health care, so you were helpless? Well, I, too, have experienced all that. Which is why when God blessed me with a good life, it became my vow to help those who have nothing. If I really wanted to get richer, I would just go back to being a businessman. If I could get out of poverty, I can also do it for you. That is my vow: to end poverty." The TV ads are highlighted by a 1961 picture of the young Manny and his younger brother Ozzie—the year that Ozzie died—as well as a Villar family picture.

The message being conveyed is simple and powerful: he was dirt poor, but God got him out of poverty; and he has vowed to do the same for others. And he is sincere: he is not running for president to make money—because if he only wanted to get richer, all he needed to do was go back to being a businessman. It is indeed a great ad. One viewer's reaction was: Awesome.

Awesome, indeed. Because documentary seen in my own three sometimes on their head, so that the only thing accurate about the ad may be the family pictures.

First there is the matter of the copy of a death certificate of Daniel Bumbo Villar indicated as issued by the NSO. According to that document, Daniel Bumbo Villar, son of Manuel Villar and Cecilia Bumbo, address xx (number illegible) Bernardo Street, North Bahay, Novaliches, died at the Far Eastern University Hospital on Jan. 13, 1961, at the age of three years and eight months, of cardio respiratory failure due to leukemia (there is something about not-cells, but the writing again is illegible), after a 12-day hospital stay. In the space for informant, the signatory is Manuel Villar, father.

Now, that Daniel Villar was brought to a private hospital—FEUH had the same symptoms then as Mahan Medical or Manila Doctors or St. Luke's would have now—rather than, say a government hospital like the Philippine General Hospital, or San Lazaro, does not necessarily disprove the Villar ad contention that his family was poor. It is not unusual for families, however poor, to do what is necessary in order to secure the best care for their children, and durin the emergency. That it was Fanoria's Far (one of the two top-based parlors at that time), as indicated on the same death certificate, that took care of the funeral arrangements, again does not necessarily remember the "I was poor" contention, but the same one.

But then, Villar does not just say in the ad that his family was poor. He said his brother died because there was no money for medicine or medical care. That appears to be clearly contradicted by the certificate.

Moreover, there is the matter of the address provided by Villar senior: apparently, from pictures and on-the investigation, the family house in North Bahay is part of San Isidro Village, a gated community, equivalent at that time to Urdaneta Village in Quezon City, by copy of the Transfer Certificate of Title for the property—which is a 500-square meter lot—that also been provided. Now anyone who can afford to buy a 500-square meter lot (for 1CF shows that Villar senior borrowed P15,000 from the GSIS for the release of the title—which at current prices is roughly equivalent to P1,200 and later) is not exactly consistent with being dirt poor.

Finally, there is the matter of Senator Villar's assertion that if he just wanted to get richer, all he needed to do was get back to being a businessman. Again, the documentary evidence his Statement of Assets, Liabilities, and Net Worth (SALN) for 1992—the first year he joined government as a congressman—showed that his net worth was P5 million. After nine years of being a congressman, and eight years of being a senator, his most recent SALN (2008) shows a net worth of P1.047 billion. Being in public office surely has paid off for him.

Noynoy leads in Bohol Poll

LAST MARCH 16, LOCAL MEDIA IN TAGBILARAN CITY, Bohol, were alerted by a public presentation by the Research Center of Holy Name University (HNU) of the following voting intention percentages for their local Poll of Feb. 23 to March 6, 2010:

For President: Aquino 44, Villar 16, Teodoro 8, Estrada 2, Madrigal 0.3, Villanueva 0.3, Scotto 0.3, Gordon 0.3, Bedia 0.1, de los Reyes 0, and Don't Know/Refused (DK/R) 25.

For Vice President: Binay 41, Legarda 19, Roxas 11, Binamira 3, Pimentel 2, Chipeco 0.1, Yuson 0.1, Sotto 0.1, and DK/R 23.

The new Bohol Poll was done on a provincial sample of 400 respondents, with 100 spaces from Tagbilaran, the rest of District 1, District 2 and District 3. That implies error margins of 5 percent at the provincial level, and 10 percent in each area.

The voting pattern is somewhat different in Tagbilaran City specifically, where the presidential race has Roxas 45, Binay 37, Legarda 11, Teodoro 4, and Madrigal 2, with DK/R 9.

The Boholanos undecided rate is large. It tends to be more predominant among women, older people, and those further away from Tagbilaran.

The Bohol Poll was conducted by the Tagbilaran-based television equivalent of local opinion polling in Bohol Poll—initially funded in 1997 by the US Agency for International Development, with intensive technical assistance provided by Isaiah "Boboy" Jiménez—to maximum monitoring activity, conducted each April since 2000, with occasional runs in election years. At the time of its naming by 1995, the center was part of the Divine Word College of Tagbilaran. DWCT gained university status (and restored the earlier name of Holy Name) partly on the basis of its survey-based research track record.

Bohol poll director Elmira Pan "Pepot" Espeleta (pacet@yahoo.com) says they will do another provincial pre-election survey soon, and present the findings on May 7. If most parties and citizens with social science capacity would do the same, we'd all know a lot more about local voting behavior.

SOCIAL CLIMATE

Mahar Mangahas

confidence in elections would surely improve.

* * *

Who enacted the "stock-distribution option"? Mr. Till R. Tuparan (pnppaseo@yahoo.com) wrote to correct my assertion, last week that the pro-Hacienda Luisita stock distribution option came not in Executive Order 229 (1987) but in Republic Act 6657 (1988). His letter, copy furnished Secretary Bebiano, cites the following section of EO 229:

"SECTION 30. Corporate Landowners. Corporate landowners may give their workers not only qualified beneficiaries the right to purchase such proportion of the capital stock of the corporation that the land area/land value bear in relation to the corporation's total assets, land grant additional compensation which may be used for this purpose. The approval by the PARC of a plan for such stock distribution, and its initial implementation, shall be deemed compliance with the land distribution requirements of the CARP."

He continues: "That section was put in against the protests and recommendations of the DAR [as] then Director Gerry Sulonod, and the OPLE by Atty. Agripino Sevilla. [CNN: Is Mikee Cojuangco-Jaworski related to Ernesto Cojuangco?] And it [EO 229] was approved on 22 July. 16 days later. Indeed, it is possible we did not get to discuss it in the CAC, although some of us did make critical comments about it at that time.—Gerry." [Yes "one of our bosses." The source we forgot with the Cabinet Action Committee, and already the responsibilities of the executive secretary. I replied that I had not read the Parrel book.—MM]

* * *

Contact INFO, www.inq.org.ph or mahar.mangahas@inq.org.ph

Graduation Day

I WRITE THIS NOW BECAUSE DOING IT ON ITS FRAKE AGE I hope saying that I wanted to be a lawyer someday, but just weeks before our batch's graduation day and days before the end of what ought to be the last semester of my undergraduate life, I am not even sure if I can march at the oval anticipated event for our whole class this year.

Things are different if every time I wake up in the morning or before I sleep at night

(and every time I open an SMS from my mother) makes me want to shut the world out. Why does it seem so difficult because of my "life" (incomplete) to a minor subject. That's only three beautiful units short. But it's unforgiving me crazy and it still sounds a lot easier when those two successful universities share their stories with the world. Here in my room, at the dorm that a relative rented for me to occupy. It seems as if I have a reserved seat in the classroom. I think I have to learn this state of confusion, somehow I look much better to live to feel and enjoy the air-conditioned room. But there is no getting out of this insecurities I get out of this bed.

So I did. I got out of bed and started writing because the words "Do what you love" have been echoing inside my head for many years now.

I entered the university with no specific goals four years ago. To me, it was like entering the door of a newly-opened mall where you know you will meet likely dots, shop, or smell around, and at some point you will feel gratified, find your way to the exit, and leave. Well, gratification is not the only reason why I entered the university. But they say in the country's premier university isn't one it anyway.

I was right about the dining, shopping and strolling around many times though. I ate new menus, saw today, movies and watched different dry ice-cream, and lots of other stuff. (One day I was saying that I'm excited... I even made list, using today's manga-fantastic books my creative mind. I whipped the tablecloth that was on the shopping list (my course's prospectus) given to me during my freshman year I stocked around the green and boring campus many times when I felt like it and when the clouds covered the sun until enough. I have also seen and met all sorts of people.

But since I'm inside the room that I occupy at a dormitory in Loyola Heights, I have thought that since it is my head that says, "Do what you love," And then I end up looking back at the days I spent as a college student and realize that I hardly did anything inside the classroom that I actually loved.

Aside from writing down comments on Facebook status or my friends' and others' videos on YouTube, I chose to survive and make pictures. I have the habit of composing a good look or story title on photograph in my hand, but almost always I never get them done. You get it: It's been academical lying in bed and enjoying the air-conditioned room. Many times, getting out of bed to actually get something I really love does not occur to me. It's just from the "Do what you love" echo again.

That is why I've ended up sticking to my routine, which is either lying in bed or going to the mall, cafe, to school. It's more comfortable that way. It's been a lot easier that way. It did not necessarily make me do the things that I really loved doing but at least doing them got me in place—wherever that is. Or so I thought. Apparently, I was wrong. I was stuck in two doors existing with my routine and ignoring the words "Do what you love" and living every day of my independent life as a young adult. I self-exiled my right here inside my room where everything seems like a memo-up file.

In all happiness in my room, yes, because here is where I am safe. I feel safe from the world. I feel safe from the dreadful deadlines, working to finish all the requirements that I need to graduate. I have realized that I haven't cleaned my own space. Below my bed is my camera bag and the camera is named Claudi inside it. On the second desk of my bed are bags, pens, notebooks, another camera and some memorable magazines. Inside the drawers are more pens, pencils, different sizes and colors of pens and papers, DVDs, and some novels. Now they are related to the life of an undergraduate who is supposed to march on graduation day after four years of studying to the university. I don't know. What I do know is that I love all those little and big things in my room and that is why I cannot get rid of them. In fact, that is why I surround myself with them.

Now years ago, I imagined the end of my own mind and saw someone under a bright ray of light. She got admitted to her dream law school after running an undergraduate degree.

I look at that turned now and I don't see where it's going. I don't see any ray of light. I don't know where to go.

I do know where that lady whom I saw four years ago at the end of it has gone: right here, inside her room, waiting for the results of her exams from other law schools because she did not pass her dream law school's entrance exam. It's up to find a certain kind of courage. Typing on article that the failure will finally shut the noise up in her head.

It is a certainty that many students from my batch will not be able to march on this year's graduation day. Many too, might not be able to finish college anymore for so many reasons that maybe only statistics, economics or public administration majors can explain. I can imagine how heartbreaking for those realities on much worse than mine. But I should note that there are many reasons students struggle on their way to graduation day even if on their way to their first classes in the morning, they're not so sure if they love what they do. That reason can be that graduation day is their classes' most anticipated event for the next years. It's not because they are graduating but for the social aura. It's not because they maybe they believe that graduating day will let them march their way to the bright ray of light at the end of their race, towards.

A few minutes from now, I'll be thinking again about my own graduation day: the safety, the entrancement speech, the proud parents, the beautiful graduates, the hugs and kisses, the exchange of words... and then I will have to pass a few basic rules of my way to it because I'm not Oprah Winfrey who can get away with an unfinished degree, one still short, and still succeed in her field. I am that lady under the ray of light at the end of the tunnel who will soon be a lawyer but will have to go through graduation day before anything else.

Coleen Claudette Ringkvist Iamsuriyas, 19, is a Public Administration student at the UP National College of Public Administration and Governance.

YOUNG BLOOD

Coleen Claudette Ringkvist Iamsuriyas

We want to know what the young people are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twenty-something and below—4to6.

NOTICE TO YOUNGBLOOD CONTRIBUTORS

Send your contributions by e-mail to youngblood@inquirer.com.ph together with your address, age and the school, course and year you're enrolled in, if employed, the position you're holding and the company you work with. Contributions to Youngblood should not have been previously published.

Finally, a 'Best Reads List' for children

AT LAST YEARS NATIONAL BOOK AWARDS (NBA), the children's literature industry stakeholders were shocked that the overall category for children's literature was not even in the lineup of contenders anymore, as it had been for many years before. This was especially disappointing as the yearly output of publishers has been steadily increasing, encouraged by the growing reading habits of young Filipinos. Perhaps time for database and seriously boosted by the popular storytelling and read-aloud sessions by performers like the Inquirers.

I am the first to admit that many titles do not always correspond to better quality, and I was musing (in the politically legitimate) and acceptable and sometimes even laudable) over the recent Manila Critics Circle that unfortunately there was no book that met the standards of literary excellence for 2008. And what a helpful, though dawning, statement that would have been for the prize.

No official reason was ever given or received, but moving from the endless interpreting and the perils of rounding like our groups could the category simply have been overlooked? That does not sound like the hardwork of a Manila Critics Circle National Book Development Board (NBDB) official member. Who is because for the first time, the NBA carried with it a cash prize award from the revered trophy by the year's invited artist? Was the children's literature category combined with or, however, subsumed by another?

The Philippine Board on Books for Young People (PBBY) led by their Dodie Gagatiga and secretary general Ma. Luisa "Lala" Reyes, Sheryl Santos and Karina Bolasco, sat down with NBDB executive director and bookfever Andrea Pasion-Flores to discuss where the industry could go from there.

And in typical Andrea fashion (pun unintended), a long little shower dream of the multi-awarded PBBY-led by initiative resulted in the birthing of the National Children's Book Award (NCBA), an NBA-like endeavor which will name not just

COMMENTARY

Ainni Ilac, Romaine Cruz

one top book or the usual shovel trains of winners, but a "Best Reads List" of a maximum of 10 titles a year other than "books ordered for the year, after this initial 2010 competition, will be titles published in the preceding calendar year. The final selection will not be ranked. The board of judges is not compelled to name any minimum number of recommended reading titles should it not find any worthy of being included in the list.

NCBA captures much of PBBY's reason for being—as being children and books together. What is essential to the organization is not only to encourage the writing, illustrating and publishing of quality children's books but also to motivate them known to parents and teachers, and the young readers who are the intended primary audience. Finally, this looks like the beginning of the completion of reading lists, requests for which we are endlessly besieged with.

This should also be the distinct recognition that this takes work of the production of an award best book will finally be credited with.

The 1st NCBA has just officially begun, barely after the ink has dried on memorandums of agreement. This year's contest rules are condensed below:

1. Anybody, whether publisher, author or illustrator may nominate a children's/young people's book, fiction or nonfiction, for ages 0 to 18 published in the years 2008 and 2009. Not under consideration as yet are electronic books or text books.

2. The nominating party must be registered with the NBDB as publishers, authors or illustrators.

3. The book must be authored by a Filipino citizen and may be written in English or Filipino. Books in other Philippine languages may be accepted as well, provided an English translation is given.

4. The book must have been released to the public in the eligible years specified with proof of any of the following: delivery to a bookstore or a jobber, donation to a school or library, distributed to bookstores or retailers that sell the books, including online distribution, produced or printed by an entity in quantities consistent with the act of publication.

5. Nominations forms have to be submitted for each title, along with seven copies of the book for the five members board of judges.

Deadline for submission of all entries is April 15, 2010.

Nomination forms may be downloaded from the NBDB (www.nbdb.gov.ph) and the PBBY (www.pbbyop.ph) websites. All submissions must be accompanied by a letter of nomination addressed to:

The Executive Director
National Book Development Board
2/F National Printing Office Bldg.
Edsa cor. EDSA Northside Road
Brgy. Pinyahan, Quezon City
Subject: The National Children's Book Awards

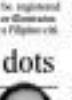
Each individual or group of awarded a trophy, a citation from the board of judges for each book and will be read during the awards ceremony.

The special top: for the NCBA was created by talented illustrator and former PBBY chair Tessi delos Reyes who the first finalist for for 2010—to be announced in July at a special awards program—and is to be awarded every two years. In other words, not beyond their ken and interest during the writing, critical studies. We can see you in that.

Ainni Ilac, Romaine Cruz (ainnicruz@gmail.com) is a member of the Philippine Board on Books for Young People, the foundation for storytelling in the Philippines, and a trustee of the Dr. Alfar Studio Foundation.

Connecting dots

BUSINESS MATTERS



Roberto F. de Ocampo

so some. Then the suspicion in some quarters that something's afoot—a suspicion that can only be heightened by the events publicly aired even before the filing on the 29th of the list of the presidential candidate about the four-four-two-proved logistical support from his own party.

It is also the first time in our electoral history that the electoral process will be fully computerized. True, there was a chance for computerization in an attempt to do away with electoral fraud that has been a sad element of every Philippine election. But the process by which computerization has been cancelled upon debut must, if not all, global expert men. No country on earth has ever attempted to computerize its elections all at once on a country-wide basis. Based on that, it is a good guess to loosely wave the flag and proclaim, "The Filipino can!"? Maybe yes, but possibly also not, and the various debuts in machine acquisition, ballot printing, electronic training, as well the seemingly continuing need for electronic efforts by many to push the envelope of technology further to see to it that the inherent hallmark problems and its total transparency have unfortunately raised not a small degree of nervousness about the possibility that computerization, rather than being an antidote to fraud, could be turned into the perfect machine for it.

Finally, it is also the first time that a sitting president is running for a congressional seat. This has been the subject of countless analysis, discussions, objections, pros and cons that, due to their volume and degree of familiarity, need not be repeated here. Suffice it to say that the scale of probability of President Macapagal-Arroyo winning is logarithmically higher than that of any of the named presidential candidates winning their desired seat and could be viewed at this point as the only outcome with the highest degree of certainty. This would likely be accompanied by the congressional victories as well of her two sons, and possibly her sister-in-law and brother-in-law—perhaps another sister in Philippine political history.

But even without that strong supporting cast, it is realistic to assume that a former president with the second highest number of votes in the history would sit in Congress as simply one among equals? Probably not, as former presidents are treated with some degree of deference after they leave office even if they just descend from there to retirement. It comes as no surprise then that speculations have arisen about the Speakership and about the perception that the ghost of Diosdado Macapagal returns to be sanctioned. I, for one, don't fully go along with the fears expressed by some at the prospect of a failure of election or a lockdown scenario. After all, why risk extreme public disfavor and the ire unleashed by crushing cynics regardless of the original source?

So, is this all speculation? Maybe, maybe not. Are these preordained? Not that, when connected, will stamp a picture of our possibly dismal fate for many years to come? Perhaps, perhaps not. But one thing is certain: the factor to be weighed and heard. And heeding it will be the duty of each citizen when they pick up their pencil to pen on May 10 to deal with the "dots" on the ballot. Hopefully, as democracies and many times in the past, the citizens will defy the odds and draw a picture of it on democracy.

Roberto F. de Ocampo is a former finance secretary and was Finance Minister of the late in 1981, 1984 and 1985.

'Consistently inconsistent'

LETTERS

THE LAW PROFESSION IS FOR ME A source of fascination and confusion. It can be dramatic as when bright lawyers argue a point in court, but when proceedings political issues, it can become exasperatingly confusing and taxing.

I'm not a lawyer and some people might therefore dismiss my view as coming from one who lacks a clear understanding of the law. Well, this is precisely the issue I'm raising to the learned disciples of the law. Why is it that lawyers are "consistently inconsistent" in their opinions and legal views and the value of the interpretation of law? Magistrates are supposed to be law experts, but when they disagree among themselves on the law's interpretation, who is there to prove which side is correct? It is not difficult to see that when two opinions collide, one must be correct and the other wrong. But what can possibly make an opinion wrong?

The recent Supreme Court decision on midnight appointments is highly controversial given that it involves and favors an imposter president. That the decision has been vehemently criticized does not come as a surprise; notably, the outraged critics are the same people who passionately dislike President Macapagal-Arroyo.

My dad used to say law is about logic and puts common sense and if you have both, you can't go wrong. If that is so, is it then correct to assume that the two conflicting sides on this issue read the law from the perspective of political considerations and personal biases? Could there be an ethical dilemma here?

I had enjoyed the classroom to challenge the high court. In a subsidiary manner in the way intellectual discussions on the finer points of law are conducted, the "evil breadwinners would at least see in anger and rage victorious signs and their screams of failure of obsession, embellishment and President Arroyo remaining in power have been drawn up. She group even makes [illegible] for presidents to sign a [illegible] conference to disobey the Supreme Court. Is this the proper way to defend the high court's decision? Terming up nomination of liars, anger and political innovations based on unfounded speculations, rumors, gossips and assumptions is not the proper intellectual approach to prove that the Supreme Court has erred. To the contrary, calling the high court ruling unconstitutional is a case of insecurity and discount, and erodes public confidence in what may probably be the most important constitutional this generation.

More than half a century after gaining independence, the country still lacks political maturity. This country is doomed to fail if potential threats and perpetrators are allowed to prevail instead of the true intent and meaning of the law.

—LUIS M. SILOS REYES,
reallyreyes@gmail.com

DA assisting El Niño-affected farmers

TO ADD TO THE STORY TITLED "El Niño dries up $1.4B worth of crops" (Inquirer, 2/16/10), allow us to note that on top of cloud-seeding operations, then Agriculture Secretary Arthur Yap had organized regional field units (RFUs) of the Department of Agriculture to work with local governments units on the speedy distribution of a package of assistance to the affected palay and corn farmers.

On the second week of February, top-level RFU officials, particularly those in Isabela and the rest of Cagayan Valley, assessed that the aid package (which includes seeds, open source palay and hard cob, subsidies for water pumps) reached the intended farmer-beneficiaries soon enough. The necessary data functioned: these RFU heads on mentally their monitoring activities, since the DA would get an accurate picture of the El Niño-induced damage and then be able to determine what other interventions measures would be needed and for exactly how many affected farmers.

As early as December last year, the RFU in Northern Luzon already purchased hybrid seeds and open-pollinated seeds, and, therefore, around 10,000 hectares as a preemptive measure against possible outbreaks of tungro and other diseases that could be triggered by the dry spell. This RFU is set to distribute 25,000 packets of vegetable seedlings to affected farmers and has already laid out the contract for the supply of another 150 million-worth of vegetable seedlings for distribution to the same batch of farmer-beneficiaries.

The RFU is negotiating for the acquisition of 100% pre-harvest crop insurance for rice and corn with select private companies. This level of subsidy program has been piloted in one municipalities under a consortium agreement with the Philippine Crop Insurance Corp., and this project will be upgraded to eventually cover all events in the region where affected farmers can secure package.

Moreover, the DA and other agencies, among them the Department of Trade and Industry and Department of Social Welfare and Development and the National Nutrition Council, are working on an emergency food aid package for an estimated one million rural families residing from the latest El Niño episode.

—DENNIS PONSEVILLA,
secretary, Department of Agriculture,
Elliptical Road, Diliman, QC

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Cebu to Borongan (Calbayog), or Puerto Princesa

₱1,288 Manila to Puerto Princesa
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Davao to Iloilo or Zamboanga

₱1,988 Manila to Butuan, Cagayan de Oro, Calbayog, Davao, Dipolog, General Santos, Ozamiz, Siargao*, Surigao*, Zamboanga or Pagadian NEW!

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KOREKONG BDO

BSP clarifies Banal's column on bills' exit

IN RESPONSE TO CONRAD BANAL'S MARCH 18 column, we wish to reassure the readers that:

1. It is not true that the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas is rushing all peso bills by November this year. While the BSP plans to start issuing new banknote designs with upgraded security features in December, the present banknotes in circulation will remain legal tender for at least three more years. Under the BSP's generous demonetization program, that will give the public enough time to make a full transition to the new generation currency. The BSP will issue appropriate notices across the country to guide the public before and after the introduction of the new banknotes. We hope we can count on Conrad's help in disseminating information related to our new banknote designs.

2. BSP machines to upgrade and expand its capacity to print Philippine banknotes and coins to cope with our growing population and economy. While the use of credit cards and debit cards continues to rise, cash remains the payment of choice in our economy. And because it is true that it is more economical for us to print our money than to outsource it, the BSP is investing in new printing and minting equipment.

3. BSP's bidding for new printing equipment has not been abandoned but has simply been delayed by its bidder task force for the project recommended the cancellation of the original bidding because new information regarding printing technology came in. BSP will proceed with the bidding for new printing equipment as soon as the evaluation being made on the specifications completed so that the latest innovations in printing technology. We want to make sure that we will get good value for our investments.

4. Characterizing as a concern to meet demand for currency is an established global practice. In fact, there are about 90 countries that do not have their own banknote printing facilities and rely entirely on outsourcing for their currency requirements. Countries that outsource 100 percent of their currency requirements include Singapore, Finland, Brunei, Sweden, Bahamas, Peru, Luxembourg, Kosovo, Slovenia, Sri Lanka and Qatar. At the same time, countries like these have their own printing facilities either to outsource to supplement existing production capacities, to fill in ranges in denomination, and to ensure continuous supply when their facilities are undergoing repair.

5. We are proud of the BSP's security paper complex that is operated by an all-Filipino team and continues to supply some of our currency requirements. It is therefore unfair to say that our plant is idle when it performs day-to-day repair and 20-year-old machines are busy operating on one or even three shifts. The fact is, our plant's production capacity has been outgrown by demand. Once we get new printing equipment, we shall be able to meet our requests for more currency demand, with room for growth.

—ST. B. DELA CRUZ,
director, Corporate Affairs Office,
Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas

No word yet from PDIC

WE, FOUR MEMBER-DEPOSITORS OF THE closed Pre Risk Time Bank, recently appeal to the management of the Philippine Deposit Insurance Corp. (PDIC) to take immediate steps that will facilitate the pay payment of our deposits.

It is almost a year since the bank closed in 2009 but we have yet to hear from PDIC regarding the status of our hard-earned deposits. The majority of us are senior citizens and the proceeds are reserved for our health care and our families' immediate financial need.

It is the obligation and responsibility of the government, PDIC in this particular case, to act immediately and resolve our claims.

—BENARDO L. SAJOL
Sta. Rosa I, Dasmariñas, Cavite

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Across the NATION

Governor disqualified as House bet

Comelec cites residence rule in decision vs Palawan exec

PUERTO PRINCESA City—The Commission on Elections (Comelec) Second Division has disqualified three-term Palawan Gov. Mario Joel T. Reyes from running as congressman in the province's second district over questions on his residency.

In a decision promulgated Thursday, the Comelec division upheld the petition filed by one of Palawan's municipal mayors who alleged that Reyes has not changed his residence from Coron in northern Palawan, where he was born, to Aborlan in the southern district where he has filed his candidacy for congressman.

"He (Reyes) is still considered to be domiciled in Coron... he did not meet the one-year residency requirement in the district where he seeks to run," the Comelec ruling said.

Beach house

San Vicente Mayor Antonio Gonzales said Reyes has not changed his residence as required in the election code.

Among the key issues raised against Reyes and upheld by the poll body were evidence that contradicted Reyes' claim to be residing in a beach house in Tiparan, Aborlan.

"The alleged residence of the respondent is a mere beach house... at most a temporary place for relaxation and cannot be considered a place of residence," the ruling added.

At the capitol last Friday, at least 800 supporters of Reyes held a prayer rally to criticize the Comelec ruling.

Streamers were printed with slogans ridiculing the Comelec, while earlier disqualified Palawan rally, Rep. Abraham Kahlil Mitra, who is running for governor.

Living in food mill

Mitra's disqualification was the result of a similar case, with the Comelec dismissing the evidence of his claim to be living in a rented room inside an animal feed mill since moving out of his ancestral home in Puerto Princesa City, a highly urbanized city where residents are not to vote for provincial positions.

"We find this case ridiculous. How can he not be a resident when he has been governor of the place?" said Reyes' lawyer, Romulo Macalintal. "It is not yet final."

He said the Reyes camp would file a motion for reconsideration next Monday. Inquirer Southern Luzon reporters Jhunnex Napallacan in Puerto Princesa and Rhoderick P. Cabrera in Aborlan contributed to this report.

TRUE POLITICO
The unthinkable—a President running for Congress—is on full display here as streamers carrying the face of President Macapagal Arroyo dot the landscape of the second district of Pampanga.

2nd bid to disqualify Negros trader junked

By Carla P. Gomez
Inquirer Visayas

BACOLOD CITY—THE COMmission on Elections (Comelec) Second Division has dismissed a petition filed by Victorias City mayoral candidate Renato Montinola Jr. seeking the disqualification of businessman Alfredo Marañon "Albee" Benitez as a candidate for congressman of the third district of Negros Occidental for lack of residency.

Montinola, in his petition, asked the Comelec to cancel Benitez's certificate of candidacy (COC) alleging, among other things, that Benitez misrepresented himself as a resident of the district for 42 years when he filed his CoC.

Montinola claimed that Benitez was born in California and renounced his American citizenship only prior to his filing his CoC.

Benitez admitted being born in the United States but he was born to Filipino parents who were residents of the Philippines and enjoyed dual citizenship—Filipino by blood and American by place of birth.

The Second Division said Montinola's cause disregard of the period within which disqualification petitions could be filed was fatal to his case.

Montinola filed his petition on Jan. 18, 2010, over 30 days after Benitez filed his CoC on Nov. 26, 2009.

The Second Division also said Montinola attached in his petition a certificate of nonforum shopping although he had admitted to having "caused another person to execute" a similar petition.

Danding son wooing cousins on nuke power

BINALONAN, PANGASINAN—Rep. Mark Cojuangco, a staunch advocate of nuclear power, may not find allies in his two cousins, who are running against each other for president.

Neither Benigno Aquino III nor Gilbert Teodoro Jr. appeared enthusiastic about Cojuangco's proposal to host two nuclear power plants in this province, courtesy of a South Korean project meant for North Korea.

Teodoro, administration Lakas-Kampi-CMD presidential candidate, and Aquino, the Liberal Party standard-bearer, were both in Pangasinan on Wednesday for their stories.

But their campaign convoys moved crossed paths.

Teodoro was visiting this town when he said he wanted to first see studies that prove the safety of a nuclear plant in Bataan.

"I also believe Pangasinan does not need the extra energy. Your province has an excess of megawatts," he said.

Teodoro said activating the Bataan facility was out of the question. "Even the people of Bataan are rallying against it," he said. Rebarkis Tondo, Inquirer Northern Luzon

PANGASINAN Rep. Mark Cojuangco (NPC) discusses with vice presidential candidate Mar Roxas his support for a nuclear plant in Pangasinan.

Quezon LP bet convicted of US fraud can't run—Comelec

LUCENA CITY—THE COMMission on Elections has canceled the certificate of candidacy of a congressional candidate in Quezon, making him ineligible to run, on the basis of the candidate's criminal conviction in the United States.

In a resolution issued Saturday by the Comelec Second Division, the poll body said Edmundo Rodriguez (LP) is ineligible to run as representative of Quezon's third district.

The Second Division is chaired by Commissioner Rhodora Peria.

On Dec. 11, 2009, one Imelda Lagos, a resident of Guinayangan, petitioned the Comelec to cancel Rodriguez's candidacy, accusing Rodriguez of lying about his qualifications.

Lagos said Rodriguez, Quezon governor from 1998 to 1998, was barred by law from seeking public office following his conviction of insurance fraud and grand theft in California.

Rodriguez was found to have faked the deaths of his brother-in-law and wife to collect more than $150,000 in insurance claims. The case led to Rodriguez's extradition.

Rodriguez, who is running against incumbent Rep. Danilo Suarez and Reboreso de la Rosa of the Alpha Kappa Omega party, said a similar case for disqualification was filed against him in 2007 but it was dismissed.

The Second Division also said Montinola attached in his petition a certificate of nonforum shopping although he had admitted to having "caused another person to execute" a similar petition.

Lagos, however, was able to submit Rodriguez's criminal records in the United States and news reports on his conviction. Bella T. Mallet Jr., Inquirer Southern Luzon

Mindanao group of traders says going nukes OK

DAVAO CITY—FOR LACK OF A better alternative in the horizon, businessmen in Mindanao expressed support for the use of nuclear energy if it could solve the island's power shortage.

Vicente Lao, vice chair of the Regional Development Council of Northern Mindanao, said power from nuclear plants was the "energy of the future."

Lao, also chair of the Mindanao Business Council (MBC), said Mindanao Daily Mail's survey support the use of nuclear energy because it is non-dangerous.

Energy Undersecretary Jose Jaime Jimpanon earlier said Mindanao's power problem could be solved only by developing other sources of energy.

"That's exactly what we need now," Jimpanon said as an energy summit in Digos City last month.

He, however, said coal-fired power plants were the most viable alternatives. Environment groups are opposing the use of coal plants as these worsen pollution.

Jimpanon said hydroelectric sources of power would simply be best benign by the weather.

"It has always been the case every summer when water sources are depleted," Jimpanon said.

Lao, however, said Mindanao businessmen are convinced that the most viable alternative is hydroelectricity is natural energy.

Businessmen have plagued Mindanao since Feb. 23. Lim's group earlier endorsed proposals from Energy Bureau to run generators in Mindanao to produce the electricity that the island needs.

The businessmen's group said it can't wait for the government to act because the government response was too slow. Judy Quirze, Inquirer Mindanao

Soldiers' presence surprises Pangasinan townsfolk

By Gabriel Cardenas
Inquirer Northern Luzon

DAGUPAN CITY—WHAT ARE Army soldiers doing in two towns Pangasinan towns that have neither a history of insurgency nor election-related unrest?

Officials expressed apprehension at the arrival of soldiers in the towns—San Manuel and Asingan—supposedly to help keep the peace during elections on May 10.

Salvador Perez, mayor of San Manuel, said he was surprised at the military deployment, the first in his town. "We are quite normal," he said.

"There are no insurgents here and no [election-related] violence had ever taken place in my town even during the time of my grandfather and father," he said.

Perez's son, Aristo, is running for mayor against Virgilio Maruya, retired Navy rear admiral.

Another group of soldiers was sent to Asingan, hometown of Hermogenes Esperon Jr., former Armed Forces chief, who is running for a House seat in the 6th district against Vice Gov Marlyn Primicias-Agabas.

The army troops, from the 7th Infantry Division in Nueva Ecija, are led by Capt. Ismael Estacio and Lt. Russell Llanes.

Asingan is one of San Vicente East Barangay Chair Rodrigo Estacio, an Esperon supporter. Esperon was 7th Infantry Division chief from July 24, 2004, to July 24, 2006.

"There are no insurgents here and no [election-related] violence had ever taken place in my town..."

11:30 PM | Nov. 3, 2008

Roddy Balarbar, Pangasinan election supervisor, said the soldiers were also private armed groups and were in the area to also guard vital installations.

San Manuel town is host to the San Roque Multipurpose Dam. It is also one of four towns that the police earlier identified to have private armed groups. The other towns are Urdaneta, San Nicolas and Balungao.

Aside from that, a Comelec election assistant was shot there," Balarbar said, referring to Jessie Villalba, assistant election officer of San Manuel town, who was shot and wounded by unidentified men in January.

Balarbar said the soldiers have specific functions in the area and they are not there to engage in partisan politics.

"Example, they should provide security to election officers, if they are requested. They should also help in voter education campaigns, if requested," said Balarbar.

"There's nothing political to it," he said.

He said the soldiers were also in the town to secure voting machines that would be used on May 10.

But some said people in his town are apprehensive. "We have to be more alert because if they will use the military (against us), we'll be helpless," he said.

INQUIRER Visayas

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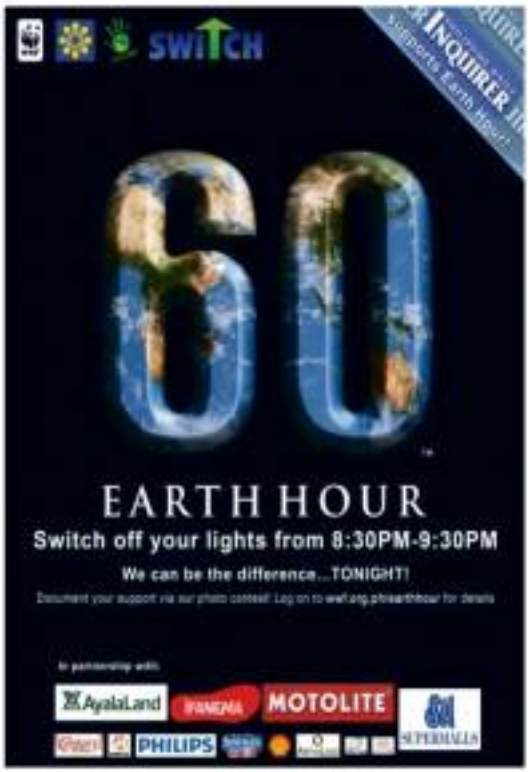

Monolithic politics in Guimaras, Aklan

By Hector P. Borgas Jr.
Jordan, Guimaras

FACED WITH TOKEN OR weak opposition, ruling administration officials in Guimaras and Aklan provinces are expected to dominate the May 10 elections.

In the island province of Guimaras, the Nava family is strengthening its hold on politics with Rep. Joaquin Carlos (JC) Rahmani Nava and his brother Gov. Felipe Nava both of the ruling Lakas Kampi CMD seeking second terms.

Representative Nava is expected to win over Tomas Jaime Jr. of the Partido ng Manong Pilipino (PMP), while the governor is also expected to defeat Gerry Navas (PMP).

The Navas, both physicians, have dominated politics in the province after the Lopez family withdrew from politics after 2001.

Formerly part of Iloilo's 2nd congressional district that was dominated by the Lopezes, Guimaras became a subprovince of Iloilo in 1996 and later its progenitor province in 1901.

Dr. Catalino Nava, father of the congressman and governor, was appointed acting governor after the 1986 Edsa-1 People Power revolt until 1992. He was elected first congressman of the province in 1995 but did not finish his term when he died from an illness in December that year.

Rindy Roland Lopez, wife of former Iloilo Rep. Alfredin Lopez, served as the first governor after Guimaras was declared a full province in 1993. She also served as representative of the island's lone congressional district from 1998 to 2001.

The Nava brothers strengthened their position and consolidated power after Representative Nava defeated former representative Edgar Espinosa, an ally of the Lopezes, in the congressional race in the 2007 elections.

Representative Nava had served three terms as governor from 1998 to 2007, while Governor Nava was mayor of the capital town of Jordan also for three terms from 1998 to 2007.

Four of five incumbent mayors in the province are allied with the Navas with three seeking reelection.

In Aklan, incumbent Rep. Florencio Miraflores and Gov. Carlito Marquez, both of the Lakas Kampi CMD are seeking a third term. Vice Gov. Gabrielle Calizo-Quimpo of the Nacionalista Party is running for a second term.

Miraflores is running unopposed, while Marquez and Calizo-Quimpo are expected to win over their rivals.

Marquez is running against Anthony Acevedo (independent) and Lowighido Medina, Bagong Henggayawat, while Calizo-Quimpo is running against Roberto Garcia Jr. of the Partido ng Manong Pilipino.

The incumbents have effectively removed any formidable opposition after the forging of an alliance between the Tiburcio Aleras party of Miraflores, Marquez and former representative Allen Quimpo and the Benigno Aleosan of Calizo-Quimpo.

The vice governor last year tussled Quimpo's cousin, lawyer Reynaldo Quimpo.

Under the coalition's agreement, Tiburcio Aleras did not field any candidate for vice governor, while Kampi did not contest congressional and gubernatorial posts.

Former representative Quimpo, who served three terms from 1995 to 2004 and is the acknowledged Tiburcio leader, said half of the 10 provincial members' seats were also agreed upon by Tiburcio and Kampi.

Tiburcio has dominated Aklan politics for more than a decade as a local party that has a common slate for local positions but may support different national candidates.

Quimpo said he is supporting the Liberal Party's presidential candidate Sen. Benigno Aquino III and his running mate Sen. Manuel Roxas II.

Miraflores and Marquez have declared their support for administration candidate Gilbert Teodoro. But they have also openly showed their support for Roxas.

Calizo is supporting the candidacy of Sen. Manuel Villar of the Nacionalista Party.

The Tiburcio-Kampi coalition has accommodated the three presidential candidates in their rosters in Aklan hosted by the respective coalition's leaders who are supporting them.

"We have always been tolerant on urban issues. In the national level as long as we are united in the local elections. This has been proven to work well for Aklan," former representative Quimpo said.

War veterans hope for kinder law on their compensation

WAR VETERAN MANUEL Carnaje, 85, is hoping that the US government would finally approve his application for compensation for services fighting the Japanese occupation forces before time runs out on him.

The US Department of Veteran Affairs (USDVA) disapproved his application under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act for lack of record of his name in the military records of the National Personnel Records Center in St. Louis, Missouri.

"I know that justice will be given to us," Carnaje told the Inquirer last week during the opening of the two-day commemoration of the 65th anniversary of the liberation of Panay, Guimaras and Romblon islands from Japanese occupation.

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act provided for the official recognition of services rendered by Filipino World War II veterans to the US government and the release of a lump-sum payment to eligible veterans.

Defense Undersecretary Ernesto Carolina, Philippine Veterans Affairs Office (PVAO) administrator, who spoke before 2,000 veterans and their families at the Balantang Memorial Cemetery and National Shrine in Barangay Quintin Salas in Jaro District, said the USDVA has paid 7% percent of approved applications amounting to $330 million out of $198 million appropriated by the US Congress.

Carolina told the Inquirer that 4,000 veterans received the $9,000 lump sum early, while 4,000 others who are US citizens received $15,000 each.

But Carolina said 8,000 applications have been disapproved due to the absence of the names of the applicants in US military records. Another 14,000 applications were in various stages of processing.

The US Embassy had earlier announced that the filing of applications for compensation were only until Feb. 16.

Carolina said the denied applications were under appeal and the applicants were required to submit more proof of their military services during the war.

The documentary evidence include copies of military orders from the United States Armed Forces in the Far East (USAFFE) or the Commonwealth Army and affidavits of recognized guerrillas who had served with the applicants.

THE FACE of a tired war veteran

"Many of those who have appealed have been approved so we are hoping that applications that were denied will be considered," Carolina said.

Retired Capt. Jovians Juanes, vice president of the 6th Military District Veterans Affairs Veterans Association Inc., said many of those denied were "guerrillas."

"It would be an injustice if their applications are eventually denied," 91-year-old Juanes said.

PVAO regional director Asterio Salonga said many applicants were rejected because their names could have been misspelled due to clerical errors in the documentation of their identities during the war.

"It was difficult then and many of their names were recorded by ear," Salonga said.

Salonga said some veterans and their families also failed to receive the compensation because the checks for deceased veterans could be transferred only to the spouse.

Carolina said the Philippine government would send an executive-legislative lobby group to the US to appeal for a "tender incorporation" of the law. Newsinfo B. Borgas Jr., Iloilo City

81% trust in accuracy of new automated voting system, says SWS survey

FOUR OUT OF FIVE FILIPINOS voters expect the new system of voting to be more accurate and easier compared to that used in past elections, according to the results of a nationwide survey by Social Weather Stations (SWS) released yesterday.

As much as 48 percent also said "[people powers would probably happen]" in the event of a failure of elections. The survey conducted on Feb. 26-28 used face-to-face interviews with 2,100 registered voters and had an error margin of plus or minus 2.2 percentage points.

In the survey, the respondents were asked: "In the May 2010 elections, do you expect the vote counting by machine is more precise (+5% more accurate) compared to the counting in past elections?"

Twenty-five percent said "definitely more accurate," and 57 percent said "probably more accurate."

Only 14 percent said "probably not more accurate" and 3 percent said "definitely not more accurate."

Unlike in the past elections when voters had to write down the names of their preferred candidates, the new system requires voters to shade the oval beside the names of their preferred candidates in a specially marked ballot. The ballot will then be fed to a counting machine.

Eighty-one percent said they believed that the new voting system would be easier. Of 19 percent said "much easier" and 26 percent said "somewhat easier").

The remaining five said it would be "neither easy nor difficult" (9 percent), "somewhat more difficult" (7 percent), and "much more difficult" (3 percent). SWS said in a media release.

Full failure scenario

The nonparticipatory survey also posed the following scenario to respondents: "If the 2010 elections fail for any reason, e.g., malfunctioning of the counting machines, then people power will probably happen already."

Forty-eight percent agreed with the scenario while 31 percent disagreed, resulting in a net agreement score (per centage of those who agree minus percentage of those who disagree) of plus 20 points.

The remaining 29 percent neither agreed nor disagreed with the scenario, SWS said in its release.

This net figure is close to the result of the October 2009 survey that posed the same question, plus 27 points (49 percent agree, 22 percent disagree).

Two people power revolts have shaken the country in the past 24 years. The first, in 1986, toppled the dictatorship of Ferdinand Marcos; the second, in 2001, ousted President Joseph Estrada who was facing corruption allegations.

Compared to the October 2009 results, the thought of another people power revolt in case of a failure of elections rose in the Visayas (from plus 13 points in October to plus 23 points in February), Mindanao (plus 14 to plus 26), and Metro Manila (plus 39 to plus 57).

It fell by 11 points in Luzon outside Manila (plus 39 to plus 28).

Aware, trusts

The survey also found that 53 percent were aware of the woes concerning by machine, with 62 percent of the respondents saying they had experienc ewer filling out forms by shading.

This compared to the October 2009 survey, more 55 Ipinos trust the Commission on Elections now to guard the machines against sabotage, the survey also found.

To the statement: "The Comelec can be trusted to make sure that there is no sabotage of the machines to be used to count the votes in the 2010 elections," 58 percent agreed and 12 percent disagreed, resulting in a net agreement score of plus 46 points.

This is up by 30 points from the October figure of plus 16 points (44 percent agree, 28 percent disagree).

Trust that the poll body would safeguard the votes improved in all areas—by 38 points in the Visayas (from plus 12 points to plus 50 points), by 30 points in Luzon outside Manila (plus 19 to plus 48), by 23 points in Metro Manila (plus 11 to plus 34), and by 20 points in Mindanao (plus 39 to plus 59).

It also rose among all classes—by 33 points in Class E (plus 12 points to plus 45 points), by 30 points in class D (plus 36 points to plus 66) and by one point in Class ABC (plus 37 to plus 38). Lawrence de Guzman, Inquirer Research

LONE SURVIVOR Filipina nurse Eva Lalin smiles as she attends to a Japanese patient at the Ishikiage Red Cross hospital in Ashikaga in Tochigi prefecture on March 25. Of 16 Lalin and two Indonesians are the only foreign nurses who passed Japan's national nursing examination under Japan's controversial scheme to train Asian nurses to work under free trade agreements. AFP/JIJI

Only 1 Filipina passes tough Japanese exams for nurses

TOKYO—THREE FOREIGN nurses, including a Filipino woman, on Friday passed the Japanese nursing exam, the first to do so under Japan's drive to attract Asians to help ease the nation's severe shortage of nurses.

Two Indonesian nurses and one from the Philippines—named Eva Lalin—overcame language barriers and passed the test after coming to Japan in 2008 and 2009, the health ministry said.

However, 231 others from the two nations failed, apparently due to language troubles since all of them are licensed nurses in their home countries.

About nine out of 10 Japanese students passed the same test.

Language barrier

"It is certain that items like Chinese characters (as part of the Japanese language) have been a serious problem," Foreign Minister Katsuya Okada told a news conference.

"There are people who have high aspirations to become nurses in Japan, even when they are forced to leave," Okada said.

"It is not desirable that most of those who are working so hard fail the test. I think the government must do something about this," he said.

Japan started accepting nurses from Asia since 2008 under bilateral economic partnership agreements to ease the severe shortage of nurses as the elderly population continues to expand.

Under the agreements, foreign nurses can work in Japan for up to three years as trainee assistants to prepare for the Japanese test. They must return home if they cannot pass the test. AFP

Mike A condition improves, say docs despite 'new tear' in heart

From page A1

The doctors said the close monitoring was necessary because there was still the danger of "possible complications."

President Macapagal-Arroyo's husband was rushed to the hospital the other day—the third time in three years he was hospitalized with a heart ailment—after complaining of back pains.

Mr. Arroyo, who was to have officially launched yesterday his election campaign for a congressional seat in Pampanga, is staying close to him, Malacañang said. (Story on Page A2.)

Facio "better now than yesterday," attending physician Juliet Gopez-Cervantes told reporters, speaking for a team of doctors taking care of the First Gentleman's husband.

"The pain is much relieved so the pain reliever will just be on an as-needed basis compared to yesterday when we had to give continuous analgesic to control the pain," Cervantes said.

New tear

Cervantes clarified that Arroyo suffered a "new tear" to the wall of the aorta, referring to the condition as "tear" or "dissection."

Balbinotion, in the case of the First Gentleman, means that there is a new tear in the wall of the aorta, and that is the reason why he suffered persistent, intense low back pain yesterday and elevated blood pressure," Cervantes said.

In 2007, Arroyo underwent a risky, open-heart surgery to repair a tear that developed in the inner walls of the aorta, the main and largest artery in the human body. It supplies all other arteries (blood vessels that carry blood from the heart to the rest of the body) with oxygen-rich blood.

The new tear developed in another area near the repaired part of the aorta.

Possible complications

Aside from the pain relievers he took, Arroyo was also put under hypertensive medications to control his constantly high blood pressure, Cervantes said.

MIKE ARROYO Guarded condition

HEAVILY GUARDED The façade of St. Luke's Medical Center in Taguig City, where the President's husband, Jose Miguel Arroyo, is confined for a heart ailment for the second straight day. NOEL CELIS/AFP

"He (blood pressure, which was elevated yesterday, has now been lowered and is stable. Hypertensive medications are gradually being decreased," said the bulletin released by Cervantes and fellow doctors Lory Lopez and Ramon Galvez.

But the doctors cautioned that, "while his overall condition is remarkably improved, we still have to closely monitor him as he could still encounter some possible complications of this refinement of the dissection area."

"The marked improvement of the First Gentleman's condition is supported by his laboratory and imaging results," they added.

Asked whether Arroyo was awake, Cervantes said he was "conscious."

"We will be updating you on a day-to-day basis," she said. With her at the briefing was Lopez, a cardiologist; Castillo, a cardiovascular surgeon, was in the operating room with another patient, according to Cervantes.

Arroyo's visitors

The Arroyos' elder son, Rep. Juan Miguel "Mikey" Arroyo, was seen leaving the hospital past noontime. He merely gave a thumbs-up sign as he boarded a van.

Senior officials were entering the hospital separately were re signed Energy Secretary Angelo Reyes, Health Secretary Esperanza Cabral and Deputy National Security Adviser Luis "Chavit" Singson.

Cabral later told reporters she did not know anything about the First Gentleman's condition. She said she met with Mr Arroyo, who had set up an office in the hospital.

"The President is working there. I was in a meeting with her," Cabral said.

Vice President Noli de Castro also arrived but said he couldn't be an eye counterbalcon. He left minutes later with a patch over his left eye. He said visitors were not allowed to see the First Gentleman.

For the second day in a row, the President cleared her official schedule to stay by her husband.

'Situation dangerous'

"If you're the wife, you're supposed to be beside your husband," deputy presidential spokesperson Charita Planas said. "(The situation) is dangerous. Anytime, something can happen. Of course, all of us, our priority should be our family."

Candidate Batangas Mayor Jerry Pelaya, a close ally of Mr Arroyo, who is running for a congressional seat in Pampanga, said she did not have to campaign because her constituents had promised to do it for her.

"They promised that they would do the campaigning for her because they didn't want her candidacy to disturb her job as president," Pelaya said on the phone.

"Those in a while when she's free, she will show up."

PCSO men driving stolen vehicles but didn't know it

From page B1

spot utility vehicles?

The 31 vehicles, supposedly mortgaged to the PCSO employees by a used-car consignee, were all stolen from their original owners, according to Chief Insp. Rodolfo Marcelo, chief of the Quezon City Police District's anti-car theft section.

Marcelo said the used-car company was owned by one Leandro Agan. PCSO employee Edwin Esteban, and a relative of Esteban's identified only as Edith.

He said police were hunting down all three, and that Esteban had stopped cooperating but won't since the PCSO parking area was raided by members on Wednesday.

He added that charges of car theft and resale were being readied against the three.

The hot cars were discovered when one of the original owners reported to police that he had spotted his stolen vehicle parked in the PCSO compound, Marcelo said.

Only 3 returned

Only three of the vehicles have been turned over to the original owners—a red Toyota Innova (DBV-668) owned by Antonio Castillo, a silver Toyota Revo (DPS-700) owned by Hilario Cupido, and a silver Toyota Innova (GJE-577) owned by Josefini Ching.

Those holding the other vehicles were reportedly still "negotiating" for some kind of settlement with the owners.

Marcelo said Agan, assisted by Esteban and his relative, pawned the vehicles to PCSO employees for amounts ranging from P1,200,000 to P300,000.

He said Agan at al. were able to get the amounts even without the vehicles' official receipts and certificates of registrations.

'Unwitting' involvement

Asked if PCSO funds were involved in the transactions, he said: "We have yet to investigate that but right now, we do not see a trail pointing in that direction."

Marcelo said he had assured the PCSO employees involved that they could be "criminally charged" if they continued to hold on to the hot cars.

He said they would be cleared of wrongdoing if they surrendered the vehicles because of their "unwitting" involvement in the crime.

The PCSO spokesperson could not be reached for comment.

Complete list of successful examinees of 2009 bar examinations

San Beda tops bar after 43 years; 1,451 out of 5,903 pass

From page A1

Topic placed second with an average score of 84.60 percent.

Although SBC has consistently been in the top 20 of bar passers, Feliza was the school's first law graduate to top the bar exams since 1967, when San Beda alum Estanislao A. Fernandez topped the Supreme Court Associate Justice Antonio Nachura, also from SBC, placed seventh in the bar exams.

A total of 1,451, or 24.58 percent of the 5,903 examinees from 108 law schools nationwide, passed the 2009 examinations.

"I think finally the fear of averages caught up with San Beda College. It has been a long, long while since it has had a topnotcher," Nachura said in an interview after breaking the news at 9:45 p.m. Friday to a crowd that had waited for hours outside the Supreme Court building on Padre Faura Street in Manila.

7 Atenean

Ateneo de Manila University (AdMU), however, had the most graduates among the top 10 with seven graduates, while the University of the Philippines (UP) completed the list with two of its graduates.

The rest of the top 10 bar passers were: third place John Paul T. Lim of AdMU with a score of 84.50 percent; fourth place Caroline T. Lujan of UP with 84.40 percent; fifth place Frederick C. Yap of AdMU with 84.05 percent; sixth place Fran Randolph F. Gonzalez of AdMU with 83.90 percent; seventh place Jean Mae S. Tu of AdMU with 83.85 percent; eighth place Hermenio C. Rupez III of UP with 83.40 percent; ninth place Timothy Joseph N. Lintuang of AdMU with 83.20 percent; and tenth place Jacqueline Rosella Sese M. Baizas and Sheila Abigail O. De Jesus of AdMU with a score of 83.10 percent.

The oath-taking of the new lawyers will be held on April 28 at 1 p.m. at the Philippine International Convention Center.

Nachura, chair of the 2009 committee on bar exams, said that to increase the number of bar passers, the passing rate was lowered to 71 percent from the usual 75 percent, while the disqualification grade in the examinations subject was lowered to 45 percent from 49 percent.

In the last decade, the highest percentage of successful examinees was 22.69 percent of the total number of examinees, posted in 2001, while the lowest was 19.68 percent posted in 2002.

The highest percentage of passers was 75.17 percent in 1954 while the lowest was 16.59 percent in 1999.

First time

For the first time, the Supreme Court designated not one but two examiners for each of the eight subjects in the exams. Every subject was divided into two parts with a designated examiner for each part.

A court spokesperson said the idea was to make checking faster so the results could be released earlier.

But since the results were not released earlier, the Supreme Court may discuss and decide whether to continue having two examiners per subject in the 2010 bar exams.

The last exams are traditionally held during the first consecutive Sundays of September, but the Supreme Court had to wait the last exam date to Oct. 4, 2009, due to the widespread flooding brought about by Typhoon Ondoy.

No. 1: YTIBIA, San Beda

No. 2: TAPIC, San Beda

No. 3: LIM, Ateneo

No. 4: LAGOS, UP

No. 5: TAN, Ateneo

No. 6: GONZALEZ, Ateneo

No. 7: TU, Ateneo

No. 8: BAGAY, UP

No. 9: LUMAUIG, Ateneo

No. 10: GO, Ateneo

MVP to pour in ₱5B more into TV5 for network wars

From page A1

an audio-visual presentation (AVP) that encountered a slight glitch.

'Kapatid'

In the middle of a spiel touting TV5's plans to build a High Definition studio, the AVP cutout cut momentarily.

It only read, "TV5 has a new song, Kapatid, because, to drum business up, the established network offers a haven (and lots of jobs) to stars like Bayani Agbayani (ASAP), Ogie Alcasid (Wowowee), Boy Abunda (Talk Boy Abunda), Mariel Rodriguez (Sharon Cuneta's sister-in-law), Ryan Agoncillo.

Aside from hosting TV5's flagship show "Entertainment Prime," Agoncillo had projects with ABS-CBN and is now seen on GMA-7's "Dahil Sa Iyo."

Agoncillo's "Eat Bulaga!" co-hosts, Vic Sotto and Joey de Leon, also have new shows on TV5.

The Kapatid line-up is represented by John Estrada, Jon Avila, Kaye Villa and newscasters Ivchors Dolphy, Marisol Antonio and Rudy Gatchalian.

Quimio, who earlier said that the network is "in hot talent...it's about investment," Espinosa said.

1st wave of shows

Dangdilan said that the present lineup of shows is just the first wave in their bid to gain industry supremacy.

But the list of new TV5 programs existed mostly of kilalang-kilala (well-known) personalities. Gabby Concepcion's comeback to the Sunday variety show "POP" and Amy Perez's "Sexy Bitches" knockoff "Face to Face").

The only bright note in an otherwise grim and garish line-up is the planned return of the children's show "Barkada."

Focus on TV signal

Espinosa earlier announced that the company would spend a total of P5 billion this year. But of this will be for the acquisition of state-of-the-art network equipment and new backdrops.

Espinosa added that the company is also focusing on improving the quality of its TV signal across the nation, which is seen as key in improving its ratings.

Dahling, the current quality of TV5's signal is already better than its bigger rivals ABS-CBN and GMA in the Mega Manila area, where more than half of TV viewers in the country live.

The additional P5 billion will go mainly to improve on the transmitter's terrain.

Espinosa said TV5 also plans to take advantage of DLZ1's expansive network of planes fitted for its nationwide signal rollout. By the middle of next year, Espinosa said TV5's signal will have screened more than 90 percent of the country.

About P2 billion will be used for the development of programs, which involves the appropriate hiring of new talents.

Aside from its stake in TV5, MediaQuest also holds a majority interest in radio operator Nation Broadcasting Corp.

MediaQuest is also a minority shareholder in the newspaper Business World Publishing Corp.

MediaQuest is also currently in talks to acquire a controlling stake in the newspaper Philippine Star.

'Black Saturday' comes a week early; 1-hour lights off on Earth Day

From page A1

cities across the country have confirmed their participation in Earth Hour 2010, conducting its switch-off the lights in homes, offices and businesses for 60 minutes, from 8:30 to 9:30 p.m., saving the equivalent of 5% million watts of electricity.

"The Philippines will be participating in this global event in a major way. We had earlier targeted the participation of 1,000 towns and municipalities. We are very pleased we have exceeded our target," said Gregg Yan, information officer of the World Wildlife Fund-Philippines, one of the event organizers.

In 2009, the Philippines ranked first among the 88 countries that participated in Earth Hour, the WWF said.

More than 50 million Filipinos in 647 cities and municipalities switched off their lights, saving an estimated 611MW of electricity enough to power a dozen coal-fired power plants for an hour, the WWF said.

135 countries participating

The main switch-off event will be held at the SM Mall of Asia. Similar Earth Hour events, including a rock concert and a street party inside Fort Bonifacio, will take place in many other cities and towns all over the country.

Now in its fourth year, the global campaign promises to be the biggest ever, organizers said, with thousands of cities and towns in 135 countries pledging to take part, despite last year's rocked climate talks.

Hopes for a binding treaty to halt global warming were dashed when December's summit of world leaders in Copenhagen only yielded a general agreement on limiting warming to 2 degrees Celsius.

Soon even by its supporters as a disappointment and a chaotic failure by critics, Copenhagen was expected to have sealed key people's hopes for meaningful action on climate change, explained Earth Hour founder Andy Ridley.

Immense reaction

"But the craziest thing this year is that rather than that happening, the roadmap to Earth Hour has been immense. It is so much more than last year," Ridley told AFP.

"There's supposed to be more to the politics around it ... But people are in clean motivated this year than they were last year," when 88 countries took part, he added.

Earth Hour began in Sydney in 2007 when 2.2 million people switched off the lights in their homes, offices and businesses for 60 minutes to make a point about electricity consumption and carbon pollution.

Blackouts at landmarks

The campaign went global the following year, and this Saturday more than 1,200 of the world's best-known landmarks will kill their lights at 8:30 p.m. local time as other organizers describe as a "24-hour wave of hope and action."

Sydney's iconic Harbour Bridge and Opera House will help kick off the energy-saving marathon, with Egypt's Great Pyramids and Sphinx, the Paris Eiffel Tower and Times of Piza in Italy and all major landmarks in Paris to take part, led by a five-minute blackout of the Eiffel Tower.

Elsewhere in Asia, where 3.3 billion people have registered to take part, the world's biggest observation wheel, the Singapore Flyer, will extinguish its main lights, while official buildings will be blacked out in Seoul.

Japan's heritage listed Himeji-jo Castle Prefectural, one of the few buildings to survive America's 1945 atomic bomb attack, will take part, while major companies including Sony, Sharp and Asahi were to switch off across Tokyo.

Some 30 US states and metropolises were to take part, with an host of darkness at sites including Mount Rushmore, the Empire State Building, the Golden Gate Bridge and Houston Space Needle.

And in Dubai, the world's tallest skyscraper, the Burj Khalifa, many will also close its lights.

Sentiment of Norway's Longyearben, the world's northernmost town, are set to have an influx of visitors polar bears normally deterred by lights after seeing...for the first time...that participating was worth the risk.

EARTH LIGHTS. This image released by the New Earth Observatory of the Earth's city lights was created with data from the Defense Meteorological Satellite Program's (DMSP) Operational Linescan System (OLS). Originally designed to view clouds by moonlight, the OLS is also used to map the locations of permanent lights on the Earth's surface. The brightest areas of the Earth are the most urbanized, but even some of the most populated, from Sydney to San Francisco, seem outshone by Las Vegas. Turner will be plunged into darkness as millions switch off their lights to take part in "Earth Hour" on March 27, Saturday, a snowballing grassroots movement aimed at thwarting climate change.

Symbolic act

"Earth Hour is meant to cross geographic, economic, country boundaries," said Ridley, adding that it was mostly a symbolic act.

"It's one hour, one day you post. We're not saving the planet or by turning the lights off for one hour."

"What you are doing is adding your voice to a global call to action," he said.

In the Philippines, Earth Hour is a joint project of the WWF-Phil., the Department of Energy, the Green Army, and the Switch Movement.

Other groups will celebrate Earth Hour in their own way.

Main switch-off

The military is taking part in Earth Hour by switching off all office and household lights and signage in military camps throughout the country. The Armed Forces is also sending a team to attend the main switch-off event at Rizal Park.

The Kalikasan People's Network for the Environment (Kalikasan-PNE) will hold a protest action in front of the Quezon City office of the National Power Corp.

Contemporary will be giving a few demonstrations of the benefits of using solar panels to power light-emitting diodes (LED) as an alternative to household lighting fixtures.

The Bohemian Mafia said its 29 member-bands will switch off all non-essential lights and equipment for one hour today.

Cebu province is aiming to save 600MW with its participation in Earth Hour. Cebu City councilor Nestor Archival said 58,000 households, business and businesses will be joining the activity.

The Philippine Daily Inquirer is among the official Earth Hour 2010 partners that include media groups, restaurants, hotels and major companies. Churches, civil society and church groups have pledged to join the switch-off. With reports from Amy Remo, Jocelyn Uy and Nisha Cullia in Manila; Shannon Sapullo in, Inquirer Visayas; and AFP

Editor Teddyvic S. Melendres
Assistant Editor Francis T.J. Ochoa

SPORTS

Texters turn back Painters

RAIN or Shine export Jai Lewis blocks Talk 'N Text scorer-part Mauro Bornido (right) in last night's game. AUGUST DELA PAZ

By Marc Anthony Reyes

MAC CARDONA AND RANDEL DE OCAMPO COMBINED FOR 17 fourth-quarter points to lift Talk 'N Text to a 99-96 victory over Rain or Shine at the Cuneta Astrodome last night and offset the Tropang Texters to break into the PBA Fiesta Conference win column.

Both stalwarts actually scored half of their game totals in the final frame, with De Ocampo shooting 3/5 and Cardona seven as the Texters rebounded from a 90-97 setback in crowd-darling Barangay Ginebra in Sunday's inaugurals.

Jimmy Alapag had 19 points, built around a 5-of-8 rip from the three-point area, and the rookie Jason Castro and import Shawn Daniels also finished in double figures.

In the second game, Ilsu Yanta pocketed six a pure performance by Barangay Ginebra import Steven Hooser to hammer out an 86-72 victory.

Jay-R Reyes fired 23 points and had 14 rebounds to lead the Elasto Painters, who were seven points down with two minutes left in the game before putting something together to make the contest close.

Talk 'N Text coach Chot Reyes, however, did not talk with a sense of satisfaction afterwards.

"This is a very disappointing win," Reyes said. "We gave them (Painters) the chance to come back in the ball game. We have to be able to finish games."

Cardona scored three seven points in a swing to go 13-4 run that turned an 80-86 game into a 97-90 Talk 'N Text lead. The ace-rebounder guard also had his only score in the contest in that stretch.

Burly Jai Lewis had 17 points and 20 boards that went with four assists for Rain or Shine.

Talk 'N Text (99)
Cardona 7, Castro 12, Alapag 19, Asi 0, Ilad 0, Ayaay 0, Ebona 0, Ibanes 0, Ilagan 0, Ong 0, Ibanes 0, Ilagan 0, Ong 0, Ibanes 0, Ilagan 0, Ong

Le Tour de Filipinas: Stern test for Filipino cyclists

By Cedelf P. Tupas

THERE'S NO GUARANTEE OF A PHILIPpine victory in the Le Tour de Filipinas next month despite the Filipino cyclists' familiarity of the course and terrain.

With a stark field of foreigners out to make their presence felt, Filipinos are in for a tough grind in the four-stage 671-kilometer Tour, the first event in the Philippines in 11 years that will be sanctioned by the International Cycling Federation.

"The foreign teams are very strong," said Ric Rodriguez, manager of the rumored 7-11 squad, one of the 11 local teams that will test actors in the individual time trials from April 17 to 20. "This is a big test for our Filipino riders."

Giant Racing, Shimano-Japan, Snow Leopard of Mongolia, Idaho 6000 Kenyan of Utah, OCBC Singapore Asia, CET Chi Mind Team and GDS Holland are expected to give local teams a stern test in the P1.2-million Tour.

Though Giant Racing is based in Taipei, most of its members are Europeans led by Lithuanian David Mitchan who ruled the recent Tour de Taipei.

Filipinos got a sample of foreign might in the recent 2010 Liquified Petroleum Gas Marketers Association (LPGMA) Tour of Luzon when the visiting riders swept the top three individual positions led by South African Dennis Van Niekerk.

Aside from 7-11, Tanduay Rhum, 6of21, New Magic Sing, Cignal Dolphins, Cemex Wheelers, Boracay Tigers, Kim's Jean and Asiaworks Vinyl are fielding teams, said Gary Guyon, president of the organizing DOS 1.

"Individually the foreign riders are strong but we are familiar with the route and the weather," said Rodriguez, whose crack squad will be composed of Vener Espiritu, Lloyd Reynante, Marcelo Ramos, Ildito Encina, Ebenezir Caceres, Erlenni Obena, Mark Guevarra and rookies Jomar Intrencia and Nino Gerasa.

The race opens with the Tagaytay-Nasugbu stage covering 140.9 km. The 68-km second stage will be held at Roxas Boulevard, while Stage 3 is a 141 km grind that will take the riders from Quezon City to Cabiao. Capping the 5-leg race is the 60-km finale to Subic base.

Mercedes-Benz Tour kicks off at Southwoods April 14 to 17

FILIPINO duo Jeoniel Ocampo and Pharris will have to find a way past the Excelroof defense to clap silver.

ANGELO QUE AND MARO PUGAY WILL HEAD the local challenge when the Mercedes-Benz Tour's new season fires off with the $500,000 Mercedes-Benz Masters on April 14 to 17 at the Manila Southwoods in Calamba, Cavite.

Que, the Tour's first Order of Merit winner in 2007 and a three-time leg winner, and Pugay, a two-time champion, will be joined by at least 50 local pros in the first of 10 legs of the Southeast Asian circuit.

The Tour boasts a web-solid schedule of tournaments, endorsement events and reward prize money of $500,000 this year.

Mercedes-Benz has committed to stage six tournaments in Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.

In keeping with the tradition of running the final event around the region, Indonesia will host the season-ending Tour Championship on Oct. 28 to 22 at Simondale Golf and Country Club in Jakarta with only the top 60 players in the Order of Merit seeing action.

"It promises to be another outstanding year for the Mercedes-Benz Tour which will once again provide a platform to showcase the tremendous amount of talent in Southeast Asia," said Wolfgang Happenhausen, president and CEO of Daimler Southeast Asian Pte. Ltd.

The Tour also welcomes back two-old Tour reps, including the ICTSI Mr. Whitetail Championship, won two years ago by Que, which will be played on June 23 to 26.

Asian PGA executive chair AC Wong said: "We are in very good shape this year, thanks to our friends in the Asian member countries and the sponsorship of Mercedes-Benz."

Thailand's Thanee Thanchaikhet was last year's thrilling one-winning twice on his way to claiming the Order of Merit title. With OAG

Excelroof seeks PBL title today

By Jasmine W. Poyo

WHILE MOST TEAMS DOWNPLAY THEIR OWN chances, Excelroof makes it known that it wants a sweep of the PBL 10th series.

Buoyed by their thrilling Game 3 victory, the 25ers aim for the crown and complete an upset of the top-seeded Pharris B Complex Morrows today in the PBL PG Pera Bowl Pharmacy Cup Finals.

"If we continue playing this way, why not sweep them," said Excelroof coach Ato Agustin in Filipino. "The boys have been playing well since the semifinals and I don't think they're tired. They're used to this and they want to win it."

Game 2 of the best-of-three series starts at 3 p.m. after the league honors the top individual performers in a brief ceremony at 2:45 p.m. at the PBSM Plaza Ng Liwanag in San Juan.

Ito Manuel, expected to spearhead the Morrows' bid to forge a winner take-all duel, leads the ranchers for the Best Player of the Conference award along with Excelroof's Jimbo Aquino and Cebuano Energy Drink's Orel Lee.

With Agustin building on the run players of Ian Sebastian's 2009 NCAA title win, the 25ers rallied from 17 points down in the second half to stun the Morrows in overtime, 97-87, in the Finals opener last Thursday.

Calvin Abueva took charge in the extra period with his gang-he plays in the shaded lane, but many others starred in the league's biggest Finals' comeback since Harper rallied from 18 points down to upset Harbour Centre, 74-73, in 2008.

Gilbert Bulawan sparked the 25ers' second half rally, while Aquino and Dunboy Raymundo nailed the clutch baskets in the go-ahead overtime.

Pharris coach Mary Cantos said the 25ers' is re-bounding, 62-47, decided Game 1's outcome.

"Offensive rebounding will be the key," said Agustin.

EARN TODAY
EARN Today P Pera, Cor. Ortigas
5:00 p.m. - Awards ceremony
Pasig - Excelroof vs Pharris

Heat roast Bulls, boost playoff seed

CHICAGO—THE MIAMI HEAT PUT a serious dent in Chicago's playoff prospects with a resounding 103-74 victory on Thursday.

Jermaine O'Neal scored 24 points while Dwyane Wade was the team's playmaker with 12 points and 10 assists as the Heat (38-34) built a 30-point halftime lead and caused into the possession of sixth place in the Eastern Conference.

"We knew how they were going to try to defend us and just a lot of guys on us so it made easy plays and it became contagious," Wade told reporters.

Bulls acknowledged that he had previously struggled to play well in his hometown Chicago.

"Today I decided to slow down and play like I would anywhere else."

"We're playing very good ball and I think we're finally found our identity," O'Neal said. "We've been doing this for the last month or so that's why our record is what way."

The defeat dropped Chicago 2 1/2 games behind the eighth-placed Toronto Raptors with 11 regular season games left. The Bulls were bounded by the return of Derrick Rose (ankle) and Joakim Noah (foot).

HEAT'S Quentin Richardson scores on a slam.

To CBCP and the Senate: Is jai alai here to stay?

BARE EYE

Recah Trinidad

YOU MAY HAVE NOT HEARD OF IT YET, BUT there has been a major shake-up in the Games and Amusements Board (GAB), whose main performing duty was reportedly assigned to a desk job in the Bureau of Immigration.

That's the good news.

It's, of course, disturbing, if not totally unbalanced, that the news start at GAB has not made our public mind on the return to the national gambling playground of jai alai.

* * *

Jai alai, in case it's not known to old, is a game of a thousand thrills—and ruthless dirty deeds.

The betting public, based on past delirious jai alai results, literally fell prey to the machinations of players and business managers.

Even before we knew the name, the Church took a loud role to the suppression and reversal banning of jai alai forerunners during the reign of Supreme President Joseph Estrada.

* * *

Now, Jose Hernandez, the Church success is spot through a caring former headline from the last growing sidewalk behind.

CBCP SEES NO JAI ALAI (CBCP blind to jai alai) I heard I sing their which peddles or P1.0 crore to Mayor Mabilis.

The story was illustrated with a flesh photo of a jockeyed in action on a local frontage.

His action team also be among those honored on late-night television over Channel 13.

It's illegal and cruddy games evil," Garcia said. "If I may, I would like to give the call by authorities to take drastic action immediately."

Story, his the CBCP climbed it but see yet heard about the return of jai alai. Group Hot reported.

* * *

Anyway, with the fight for the governorship of Bicol heavy getting fray every day, details about this political feud.

Inquirer.net commissioner Boy S. Dela, Jr. reported that the former governor Garcia camp has been following the region's politics from Intramuros.

He reports that Bicol Mean-Gut Michael Rene, core homies of the much-invaded Gin camp, like supporting program for Filipino athletes, could be fighting for his political life.

Mike is standing for re-election against his first cousin, former Rep. Imee Marcos in the May elections.

Perci would represent the bloc of Imee, Sarah Elerina's former cohorts in the Buena Tanes and poses this question vs former voters: Do you want a hands-on third executive like Imee or an absentee-one like his cousin?

In an apparent dig at Manila based Imee and her supporters, while speaking for Congress, Bicolnon wrote: "Shoo, shoo, kibit adalo ang ibong na pangi-ngipit". Loose translation: Go away little birdie. Beware not around during the planting season lest you suddenly appear at harvest time (cruel election time) to partake of the yield."

URCC gets it on tonight

By Cedelf P. Tupas

WUSHU SPECIALIST EDUARD Folayang was particularly impressed when he saw videos of Iranian Ensiye Chang's fights.

But tonight, Folayang plans to treat the Iranian in a judo match before strikes his welterweight crown in the featured bout of the Cub 45-Universal Reality Combat Championship (URCC) 101 at the Ynares Center-Antipolo Hall in Makati City.

Nine other bouts are scheduled as the event presented by Cub 45-Tiktok are pegged at P1,000 and P500. Action starts at 7 p.m.

Equally interesting is the return of former flyweight champion Mildred Laspiñas, who takes on Salvador Demesiers, while Montalvo faced Ukrainian Igor Nikaev battles Australian Nicholas Muto in the heavyweight division.

Other notable bouts have Edwin Pablo Cañares battleweight Ito Tavanes jr. versus Ayan Bantawaghit, Jessie Oliver vs Lovely Said featherw. Lindy Cañares jr. vs Ronnie Jr. Nuyda featherw. Jhon Ramirez vs Jessy Tina spec. Dodo Lungay and George Lumbay spec.

Esguerra tops drag race

LITTLE-KNOWN SHERWIN ESGUERRA OF SR Racing and defending Expert class champion Jonathan Tinsay of JCT Rhoxifar Racing scored clean wins against separate events recently in the third leg of the 2010 Magnolia Performance National Drag Racing Championship Series at the Batangas Racing Circuit.

Esguerra delivered the biggest surprise, taking advantage of a red light violation by Christian Medina of Autokarera for the Sportsman crown of that event unreturned by the Automobile Association Philippines.

Alvin Gerino of III Motorsports prevailed against former champion Wilo Perez of Ajat Racing to claim third place.

Meanwhile, on Open Pro hand, accorded a great escape over Hubert Villaseñor of Diva Speed to capture his third consecutive victory in the Expert class.

SPORTSWATCH

Julaton bout on GMA

GINA M. TAMAYO WILL AIR THE FIGHT BE-tween Filipino champion Ana "The Hurricane" Julaton and Canada's Lisa "Bad Bones" Brown for the vacant WBC super bantamweight belt at Casino Rama in Orillia, Canada.

Julaton bears a tough opponent in Brown, who is undefeated at 122 pounds.

Julaton is coming off a win over Mexico's Jessica Rodriguez last Saturday at the Mandalay Bay Events Center in Las Vegas, Nevada.

'Rambulan' rolls on

THE 'RAMBULAN' TOURNAMENT CONTINUES AT Cebu City's Sacred Heart Academy this afternoon featuring 100 fights early this afternoon at San Juan Coliseum.

Today's matchers will enter the finals on April 12, 14 and 17.

Meanwhile, boxing champ Manny Pacquiao leads the field in the upcoming fight of the Century-8-Cock Derby on Monday. For details, call 7250309 and 7250303.

Junior tennis tour on

ASPIRING TENNIS STARS IN Cagayan de Oro will earn free clinic or ranking points in the 12th Head Junior Tennis Tour-Satellite Circuit 2010 which gets off today.

The biggest age-group sectional tennis tour will have competitions in 10-years-and-under (minors) and boys and girls' 12-and-under, 14-and-under, 16-and-under, 18 and-under.

Sanctioned by the Philippine Tennis Association and promoted by Smart Sports in partnership with Chris Sports and Head, the tournament is a countrywide campaign aimed at discovering future champions and strengthening grassroots development.

Winners of the second tour-

nament will vie for spots in the prestigious Junior Masters to be held at year's end.

Former Bureau of Immigration head Nathaniel Rodriguez will lead the opening ceremonies, which will also be held in different key cities in Mindanao.

After the Cagayan de Oro leg, the event will transfer to Zamboanga (April 5 to 7), Davao (April 10 to 12), Davao (April 13 to 17), Lapu-Lapu City (April 20 to 23), Cebu (April 24 to 27), Panglao, Bohol (April 29 to May 2), Dumaguete (May 4 to 6), Bacolod (May 8 to 10), Iloilo (May 12 to 13), Baguio (May 15 to 21) and Manila (May 24 to 28).

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NO FOUL PLAY

Actor's son found dead

By Nancy C. Carvajal and Marinel R. Cruz

THE 23-YEAR-OLD SON OF actor Cesar Montano shot himself inside his house in Barangay Old Balara, Quezon City, before dawn yesterday, a police official said.

Supt. Crisnerome Mendoza, commander of Station 6 of the Quezon City Police District (QCPD), said Christian Angelo Pelingo Montano, a son of Montano (Cesar Montano in real life) from a first marriage, was found by a household member or armed 6:30 a.m. with a gunshot wound in the head. One hand held a .45 caliber pistol, and on the other, a telephone.

"The only bullet was positioned, with the ear-hooked phone beside him, showed he was talking to someone on the phone before he shot himself," Mendoza said, adding that an initial investigation did not indicate any sign of foul play.

"The victim shot himself, to an apparent suicide," Mendoza said.

Montano was rushed to Makati General Hospital on Commonwealth Avenue, but was declared dead on arrival by doctors.

An initial interview with Montano's maid, Alicia Pacolor, revealed that the victim arrived at around 2 a.m. and appeared to be drunk.

"Investigators who rushed to the scene and brought him to the hospital said the boy smelled of liquor," Mendoza said.

High spirits

A source said Angelo was in "high spirits" the night before the incident, and was seen with his girlfriend, who celebrated her birthday on Thursday.

"The house help were told Angelo had asked for her help in getting dressed for the celebration," the source recalled.

Mendoza said the victim's family asked police not to continue the investigation of the incident. "They said they have accepted the fact that the victim killed himself and that no foul play was involved," he said.

He added that Montano, who was in the bed at the time of the incident, said he wanted to be arrested when crime scene operatives conduct their investigation.

No sign

The actor is running for governor in the island province in time for the start of the campaign period for local candidates that started yesterday.

"Angelo and his girlfriend were like cats and dogs," said a close friend of Montano who declined to be identified. "People close to them were used to seeing them indulge in petty fights. There was no sign this would happen."

In a statement sent to Inquirer yesterday, Montano said: "We are still trying to piece together some facts pertaining to his death."

Montano added: "No words can describe the grief that my family and I are experiencing with this devastating news. Angelo was

AUTHOR'S FILE

Campaign off to rousing start in Metro Manila

By Tito G. Sarao, Jeannette I. Andrade, DJ Yap, Beverly T. Mendoza, Ed C. Cabacungan Jr., Mike Morales, Nancy C. Carvajal, Nitz Calleja and Julie M. Aurelio

THE CAMPAIGN PERIOD FOR local elections was off to a rousing start in many areas of Metro Manila yesterday.

In Manila, candidates kicked off their campaign with presidential rallies.

Mayor Alfredo Lim, running mate Vice Mayor Francisco "Isko Moreno" Domagoso and their City Council bets held their proclamation rally in Plaza Miranda under the Liberal Party banner and Lakas pair in Rajah Sulayman, Barangay 659 in Malate.

Former city mayor and Environment Secretary Lito Atienza, running mate Councilor Ma. Lourdes Isip, and the rest of his team started the day with a Mass at the Sto. Nino Church in Tondo.

Their proclamation rally was held at Onyx corner Tagaytay Street in Manila's fifth district.

Atienza and his team will hold proclamation rally in each of the city's six districts.

Another mayoral candidate, former Philippine National Police chief Avelino "Jinggoy" Razon, was accompanied by members of his entire slate at a proclamation rally held in Plaza Sampaguita in Tondo.

Several hundred supporters of incumbent Pasig Mayor Robert Jaworski and his allies took to the city streets for his proclamation rally Tuesday night.

He is up against Ricardo Reyes, Gilbert Barry and Lucila Hernandez, an independent. Reyes held his rally last night in Barangay Pinagbuhatan.

At 7 p.m. today, Mandaluyong Mayor Benhur Abalos, who is seeking his third term, will hold a motorcade in the city streets instead of a proclamation rally.

His opponents are independents Nelina Benitez and Reynaldo Villoria, and Liberal Albert Isaac of Aksyon Demokratiko, who remains under the custody of the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency on a drug-selling charge.

Dida Fontanos, mother of incumbent San Juan Mayor JV Ejercito, who is now seeking a congressional seat, will join her son in a house-to-house campaign. No date has been set for a proclamation rally.

Her opponents are Ang Kapatirang Pantay Pilipino Party's Alvin Gonzales, who will join his party mates in a proclamation rally after Eastern Mindoro Andaia of Lakas-Kampi, and independents Eduardo Ang Pascual and Antero Ramos.

Marikina City Vice Mayor Romulo Fortaleza has yet to set a proclamation rally. His lone opponent, incumbent District 2 Rep. Del de Guzman, will hold his on Shoe Avenue in Concepcion Uno.

Albeit...

Liberal City Joaquin and John Alexander Cheng, an indigent Aeta, are also in the race.

The start of the local campaign season was relatively subdued in the Caloocan Mayabang Matinta-Velenzuela area yesterday.

In Caloocan City reelectionist Mayor Recom Echiverri chose to begin the local campaign season with a Mass at San Roque Cathedral.

Echiverri's closest rival, Liza "Baby" Asistio and his vice mayor running mate Reynaldo Bautista were on a house-to-house campaign in Sangandaan.

Valenzuela City's Mayor Sherwin Gatchalian and Vice Mayor Eric Martinez held their proclamation rallies last night, while chief of Camara Dreña, Jose Antonio for Malabon City's big post, is set today, with running mate Councilor Antolin Oreña III.

The first day of the campaign season in Navotas City was also off to a slow start, with Mayor John Tengco on a house-to-house campaign. Tengco is the lone candidate for the city's first congressional seat. His brother, Johnny, is running unopposed as mayor.

Liberal thirty-something presidential bet Sen. Benigno "Noynoy" Aquino III made a short stop from provincial motorcade in drop by Valenzuela City to personally lead the campaign kickoff of his girlfriend, Councilor Shalani Soledad.

Asked what was so special about the city, Aquino said, "The reason is beside me. She is my number one supporter (and) she's the important one (because) that's why it's important that I be with her from the start."

The Mandaluyong City supporters of Daniel Mayor Jaime Fresnedi screened reelectionist Mayor Alakbi Ann Bedia of sabotaging their kickoff festivities by laying tacks at the Tiendesitas crucial road where they held a motorcade. City information chief Oscar Acosta dismissed the charge as a publicity gimmick.

In Pandacan, Mayor Floreto Dematdo presided over a meeting de cavite at Barangay La Huerta in mark the start of the local campaign in the city.

Outgoing Barangay Brgy. Ed Chavez, Kagawad Rhenier Cabral, held a political rally in Barangay San Dionisio.

Retired Associate Justice Jaime Ongpa also made the rounds in Taguig City going house to house to encourage his former colleagues to support his bid for congressional seat in the city earlier in the day and joining a lonely flight around Bonifacio Global City.

His rival, Rep. Lani Cayetano, launched a political rally in Tipas.

Lito Pilas Mayor Virgel Aguilar opted to take it easy with no campaign sortie yesterday. He, however, will be holding a series of sessions with local leaders starting April 8.

Former Presidential Chief of Staff Mike Defensor, who is running for the top post of Quezon City, kicked off his campaign in a bonfire light in Lupang Pangako in Payatas, Quezon City, as motorcycling.

Quezon City Vice Mayor Herbert Bautista made the rounds of four proclamation rallies of the Liberal Party in the city's four districts last night.

Bautista is running for mayor alongside vice mayoral candidate Joy Belmonte, daughter of incumbent Mayor Feliciano Belmonte Jr. who is seeking the congressional post in the seventh district under the Liberal Party.

Supporters of congressional candidate Winston Ong also held their own motorcade in Quezon Avenue. But a running against incumbent Congressman Bong-Suntay Tolentino.

Makati mayoral candidate Vice Mayor Ernesto Mercado, Councilor Jejomar Erwin "Junjun" Binay and Erwin Gonzales took different routes. Mercado began his campaign with a motorcade in the morning, while Binay followed by a proclamation rally in the afternoon at San Antonio Village.

Outside, not of Pasay chair Ephraim Genuino, hopped from house to house at Barangay Wakas 2 in the morning, while Binay, with his entire ticket, attended a mass Mass at the Sacred Heart Church in San Antonio Village. His proclamation rally has been set today with Sen. Pronan Revilla as special guest.

Tight race for mayoral post shapes up in Quezon City

THE ENTRY OF FORMER MAYOR Mel Mathay Jr. in the race for the mayoralty of Quezon City will make the local elections more lively and interesting for city residents, a political campaigner said.

Mathay's son, former Councilor Bo Mathay, said his father's entry in the race changes the complexion of local elections in Quezon City.

"Mayor Mathay's candidacy makes it a more exciting race. But more importantly, Quezon City residents now have a more viable choice for mayor," the younger Mathay said.

If elected to mayor, Mathay is running on an independent platform against Vice Mayor Herbert Bautista, former Environment Secretary Michael Defensor and Rep. Annie Susano Susano.

"Mayor Mathay's decision to run is based on his desire to address very basic issues such as unemployment, peace and order and quality education that continue to plague Quezon City," his son said.

He added that his experience as a city councilor should provide Quezonians the particular basis for making the right choice come May 10.

"Many if not most, of Quezon City's major commercial and residential centers, the city's growth hubs, were initiated during Mayor Mathay's time. Eastwood and Ateneo Centers in Cubao are just some of the growth hubs started during his time as mayor," he said.

Mathay was also instrumental in opposing up the Barangay area to investors, convincing city councilors to oppose local legislation that allowed major developers like the SM Group and Robinsons Land Corp. to develop their malls in the area, said his campaign manager.

METRO BRIEFS

Shabu lab busted in Taguig City

OPERATIVES of the National Capital Region Police Office busted a shabu laboratory in Taguig City yesterday, seizing drugs of the illegal substance possibly worth millions of pesos, according to Director Roberto Rosales. The police were also rounded at least two suspects, one of them identified as Rolando Mitarejo, said Rosales. The official added that the other suspect refused to talk when they asked for his identity. "The seized shabu is probably worth P10 to 20 billion according to our estimates," Rosales said. He described the laboratory at Barangay Tanyag as "sophisticated" because "they were furnished with an exhaust vent aimed during the processing of the illegal substance. Rosales said the laboratory was under surveillance for about two and a half months before police raided the facility yesterday afternoon. Nitz Calleja

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No foul play: Actor's son found dead

ANGELO (right) in happier times with father Cesar Montano and younger sister Angelis.

So young. He was a cheerful, thoughtful and loving son who had a generous heart and spirit."

Montano said he was with Angelo in St. Theodore before leaving for Bohol. "Little did I know that it would be the last time I was to see him alive," he said.

Montano added: "I received the shocking news of (his) death very early this morning (Friday) while I was in the province. I immediately flew back to Manila the first thing today to be with him. While I am still reeling from this tragic incident, my family and I would like to appeal to everyone to respect the privacy of my grieving family at this time."

According to Montano's talent manager Norma Japitana, Montano was so devastated with his son's death that he refused to talk to anyone, apart from immediate members of his family.

Angelo and younger sister, Angelis, are Montano's children with first wife Marilyn Pobiga, who died of a brain tumor in 1993.

Montano has three daughters with Cristine Angelica Imbollo, Samantha Angelina and Abigail Francesca.

Montano's other son, Cuby Dreyer, lives with his mom, former actress Teresa Loyzaga, in Australia.

Not ready

"Bubuy (Montano's nickname) said he's not ready to face anybody just now," said Japitana.

Angelo's remains lie at the Arlington Memorial Chapels in Quezon City.

Japitana said the family decided against an initial plan to embalm Angelo's body. "This is because Angelo's relatives on his mother's side want to see him," Japitana explained. "His casket will remain closed."

Japitana added: "This to shock. I can't imagine grown up. I remember him to be very loving. He liked hugging me a lot. He loved sports, especially basketball and tennis. He was his dad's constant playmate."

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* * *

Here's a warning to superstitious Pinoys who think that a bullet is a talisman for warding off evil spirits.

The bullet, revered it has been empty of gunpowder, is still considered a dangerous item and will get you in trouble when you board a plane.

The X-ray machines will detect the bullet and you will be held.

Many plane passengers were held in various airports in the country after the X-ray machine detected a bullet in their baggage.

These passengers were held because they did not put their bullet-charm confiscated.

However, if they were in an airport in another country, authorities there would not be so lenient.

To them, a bullet, it already disarmed, is still a bullet.

* * *

To fellow Pinoys who are fond of having printed digital video discs (DVDs). Don't you ever make the mistake of taking these items to the United States.

I've heard of Pinoy tourists who went back home on the first available flight after US customs found pirated DVDs in their luggage.

* * *

Women who buy fake signature bags like Louis Vuitton: Display your fake bags in the Philippines to your heart's content.

Most Pinoys can't distinguish a fake from a genuine Louis Vuitton bag.

You don't take your fake signature bag to a foreign country like Singapore and many parts of Europe because you might be held by customs and deported.

* * *

A friend of a friend of mine went to Switzerland.

A customs officer at the Zurich airport asked him if the watch he was wearing was a genuine Rolex.

The guy, according to my friend, was a jokey.

He thought his joky would be appreciated by the customs official.

He told him the watch was bought in Taiwan and was fake.

In fact, the watch was a genuine Rolex as the guy was rich enough to afford the real world on luxurious class accommodations.

The customs officer asked to see the watch and the guy obliged.

The officer dropped the watch on the concrete floor and stomped on it until it broke.

You fake for him to say it was real.

Welcome to the country's one & only true private cinema.
GREENBELT

Vatican slams 'ignoble attempt' to smear Pope

VATICAN CITY—THE VATICAN ON Thursday angrily attacked the media over its reporting of sexual abuse of children by priests, saying there was an "ignoble attempt" to smear Pope Benedict XVI "in any way."

The editorial in a Vatican newspaper came on a day when victims pressured new St. Peter's Square to demand the Pope open files on pedophile clerics and defrock "predator priests," and a cardinal spoke of a "conspiracy" against the Church.

"The prevalent tendency in the media is to ignore the facts and anoint interpretations with the aim of spreading the picture of the Catholic Church as the only one responsible for sexual abuse, something which does not correspond to reality," the Vatican newspaper said.

"Here we 'clearly an ignoble attempt to strike at Pope Benedict and his closest aides or any one," it said.

The editorial challenged a New York Times report about the case of Rev. Lawrence Murphy accused of sexually abusing up to 200 deaf boys in the United States from the 1950s to the 1970s.

Arthur Jr. Sulzberger Jr. of those Abused by Priests (SNAP), all of whom were sexually abused by priests, held a prayer and news conference outside the Shrines.

Holding up photos of themselves as children and signs reading "Stop the Secrecy Now," they demanded the Pope open files on pedophile clerics and immediately defrock all "predator priests."

Italian police took their passports and let them carry the questioning. They were held for two hours and later released, one of the group said.

The scandal of alleged cover-ups of abuse has come perilously close to the Pope himself after one story turned out to have been falsified cases before his election in 2005.

There have been allegations of a cover-up of abuse in Munich when he was the city's archbishop from 1977 to 1981. Victims' groups have called for information on his decisions when he headed the Shrines doctrinal department from 1981 to 2005.

"The Pope has said he is sorry," said John Pfeiffer, a SNAP leader who was abused more than 30 years ago.

"But what the Pope will even admit is what he knew and what the people inside the Vatican knew. He owes it to every survivor and their families to be honest with us and explain what happened behind those walls, what was covered up, and to finally tell us the truth," he said.

At a breakfast meeting with reporters, one of the Pope's top aides, Cardinal Jose Saraiva Martins, denounced what he called "a conspiracy" against the Church.

"This is a period for attacking the Church," he said.

"There is a well-organized plan with a very clear aim," he said, without spelling out who was behind it.

Reuters

IN TIME: 1934 family photo, Archbishop Rudolph Bandas (fourth from left) poses with his niece at St. John's School for the Deaf in St. Francis, Wis. They are wearing sailor hats/glasses to help them learn sounds and how to speak correctly. Rudolph, now 81, was one of about 200 students at the school who say they were molested by Rev. Lawrence Murphy decades ago.
—

Pope accountable for biding priest abuses, says victim

MILWAUKEE, WIS.—POPE BENEDICT should be held accountable for doing nothing about a Wisconsin priest who was accused of sexually abusing as many as 200 boys at a Milwaukee school for the deaf, one of his victims said on Thursday.

MURPHY: in 1974 photo
—

Arthur Sulzberger, a 61-year-old Milwaukee native who is deaf, spoke through his daughter, Gigi, about how his "innocence was stolen from him" by the accused abuser, Rev. Lawrence Murphy who died in 1998 at age 72.

"The Pope knew about this. He met the one who handled the sex abuse cases. So, I think he should be accountable, because he did nothing," Gigi Sulzberger said at a news conference held outside the Milwaukee Archdiocese's offices.

Murphy worked at the school from 1950 to 1974.

A lawyer bringing a lawsuit on behalf of the alleged victims published on his firm's website internal church documents detailing the Church's responses to the case.

In 1996, Milwaukee Archbishop Rembert Weakland wrote a letter citing Murphy's abuse to to Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, then the Vatican's top doctrinal official and now Pope Benedict XVI.

The archbishop did not receive a reply.

As the US church took steps to fix Murphy's cover-up in 1998, as directed by the Vatican office, the pleas appealed directly to Ratzinger. Murphy asked to be left alone, saying he was in ill health having suffered a stroke, and had repented acts committed years earlier, according to the documents.

The Vatican office halted the investigation.

Mark Sullivan, a member of a group of victims of sexual abuse by priests, said the case was "where it belongs, and that's at the Vatican's doorstep."

"Penelope can have all of the colonels and lieutenants he wants falling on their swords for him, but eventually he has to line up, and that's what I hope happens," Sullivan said.

Budzinski said he and other victims of Murphy's sexual advances met in 1974 with former Milwaukee Archbishop William Cousins, who did not believe them and pulled at them.

"He left them, and he was crying, because he couldn't believe that the archbishop would do that to him. He thought that he would take his side, and he didn't," Gigi Budzinski said of her father, who became depressed and lost his faith.

Budzinski said he took his complaints to the police but he said detectives questioned and then released Murphy, who denied the accusations.

Reuters

WORLDBRIEFS

US, Europe agree to expand open-skies pact

BRUSSELS—The European Union and the United States signed on Thursday to expand a 3-year-old accord that allows airlines to operate more freely across the Atlantic. The move will let more airlines fly to more destinations and narrow differences over environmental regulations, but industry examiners were disappointed that no agreement was reached to remove the remaining barriers to foreign ownership and control of airlines. *AFP*

California referendum would legalize marijuana

SAN FRANCISCO—The hippie city in California could a group of marijuana smokers can themselves Pascal residents. Rent can, faced with $200 million deficit, will vote on Tuesday on a tax and regular legislative paralysis, voters in California are set to consider a single-issue measure to help ease some of the state's money troubles: legalize. On Wednesday, the California-area Kiley of state certified a November vote on a ballot measure that would legalize, tax and regulate marijuana, a plan that advocates say could raise $1.4 billion a year and save precious law enforcement and prison resources. *AFP*

Woman with more children are less suicidal, study finds

DUPO—The more children a woman has, the less likely she is to commit suicide, a Taiwanese research on Friday, contradicting a study of more than 2,000 mothers who took their own lives. The study, to be published by the Canadian Medical Association Journal, serves as evidence against the notion that a large number of children would lead to more suicides because of the extra stress on mothers. "Women tend to find solace and support from their children from marital problems, especially in patriarchal Asian societies," said Yang Chun-yuh, the author of the study. *AFP*

Taiwan man, 96, ties the knot with 30-year-old woman

TAIPEI—A 96-year-old temple keeper has become Taiwan's oldest groom on record after marrying a woman less than one-third his age, a report said on Friday. Lin Chuang, who runs a Taoist temple in south Taiwan's Tainan county, is the talk of town after wedding a 30-year-old woman from mainland China's central province of Hunan, said the Taipei-based Apple Daily. Lin, single, recently decided to tie the knot despite strong objections from his 66-year-old adopted son, who suspected that the elderly man was conned, the report said. *AFP*

Stop suing journalists, RSF urges Singapore leader

SINGAPORE—Media rights watchdog Reporters Without Borders has urged Singapore Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong, his father Lee Kuan Yew and other top officials to stop taking "libel actions" against journalists. RSF secretary-general Jean-Francois Julliard wrote an "open letter" to the Singapore leader on Thursday asking for a meeting about the group's observations and proposals "for guaranteeing press freedom" in the affluent city-state. His letter followed an apology and payment of damages by the New York Times Company to the Lees and former Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong over an allegedly defamatory article. *AFP*

Up to a third of breast cancers can be avoided

BARCELONA, SPAIN—UP TO A third of breast cancer cases in Western countries could be avoided if women are less fat and exercised more, researchers at a conference said, renewing a sensitive debate about how lifestyle factors affect the disease.

Better treatments, early diagnosis and mammogram screenings have dramatically slowed breast cancer, they experts said the focus should now shift to changing behaviors like diet and physical activity.

"What can be achieved with screening has been achieved. We can't do much more," Carlo La Vecchia, head of epidemiology at the University of Milan, said in an interview. "20 years ago we had no other choice."

La Vecchia spoke on Thursday at a European breast cancer conference in Barcelona. He cited figures from the International Agency for Research on Cancer, which estimate that 25 to 30 percent of breast cancer cases could be avoided if women were thinner and exercised more. The agency is part of the World Health Organization.

His comments are in line with recent health advice that lifestyle changes in areas such as smoking, diet, exercise and sun exposure can play a significant role in risk for several cancers.

Dr. Michelle Holmes of Harvard University, who has studied cancer and lifestyle factors, said people might wrongly think their chances of getting cancer depend more on their genes than their lifestyle.

"The genetic factors have been there for thousands of years, but it cannot have our changing in a lifetime, that doesn't have much to do with genes," she told The Associated Press in a phone interview from Cambridge, Massachusetts.

Breast cancer is the most common cancer in women in Europe, there were about 421,000 new cases and nearly 90,000 deaths in 2008, the latest available figures. The United States last year saw more than 190,000 new cases and 40,000 deaths.

A woman's lifetime chance of getting breast cancer is about one in eight. Obese women are up to 60 percent more likely to develop any cancer than normal-weight women, according to a 2006 study by British researchers.

Many breast cancers are fueled by estrogen, a hormone produced in fat tissue. So experts suspect that the fatter a woman is, the more estrogen she's likely to produce, which could in turn fuel breast cancer. Even in slim women, experts believe exercise can help reduce the cancer risk by controlling insulin levels.

"At any discussion of weight and breast cancer is considered sensitive because some may misconstrue that as the medical establishment blaming women for their disease.

Tara Beaumont, a clinical nurse specialist at Breast Cancer Care, a British charity, said her agency has always been careful about giving lifestyle advice. She noted that three of the major risk factors for breast cancer—gender, age and family history—are clearly beyond anyone's control. *AP*

NEECO II AREA 1

INVITATION TO SUBMIT BID PROPOSAL

To all Prospective Bidders

Nueva Ecija II Area 1 Electric Cooperative, Inc. (NEECO II Area 1), in compliance with the guidelines of the Energy Regulatory Commission, invites interested parties to participate in the bidding or competitive selection process for the supply of energy requirements to its franchise area under any of the following:

PACKAGE I	–	Three (3) years Power Supply Agreement (June 26, 2010 – June 25, 2013)
PACKAGE 2	–	Five (5) years forward Power Supply Agreement (June 26, 2013 – June 25, 2018)

Interested parties must submit a Letter of Interest (LOI) by hand to the NEECO II Area 1, Bids and Awards Committee (BAC). The LOI, signed by an authorized representative, shall state the full name, address, telephone and fax numbers of the interested party and name of the principal contact. It must be delivered by hand to and received by the BAC at the NEECO II Area 1 Main Office with address at Cabanatuan, Talavera, Nueva Ecija not later than 12:00 noon, on April 12, 2010.

The details of the bidding or competitive selection process are contained in the Bid Documents, which interested parties must secure from BAC Secretary, Ms. Maryvic Cascolano during office hours (8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.) from March 31, 2010 to April 6, 2010, upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Ten Thousand Pesos (₱10,000.00).

Only interested parties that submit the LOI on time and who have been issued and have paid for the Bid Documents will be qualified to participate.

NEECO II Area 1 reserves the right to reject any and accept the bid that is most advantageous to the Cooperative.

(Sgd.) EULALIA M. CASTRO
General Manager

(Sgd.) ENRIQUE NELSON M. DELA CRUZ
BAC Chairman

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A 20 PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER SATURDAY MARCH 27, 2010

The WORLD
Edited by Lawrence B. Casino

Bin Laden threatens US over 9/11 plotter

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CAIRO—OSAMA BIN Laden threatened in a new message released on Thursday to kill any American al-Qaida captives if the US executes the self-professed mastermind of the Sept. 11 attacks or other al-Qaida suspects.

In the 74-second audiotape aired on Al-Jazeera television, the al-Qaida leader explicitly mentions Khalid Sheik Mohammed, who was captured in Pakistan in 2003. He is the most senior al-Qaida operative in US custody and is currently detained at the US naval base at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

In 2008, the US charged Mohammed with murder and war crimes in connection with the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks on the US. Pentagon officials have said they will seek the death penalty for him. Four of his fellow plotters are also in custody.

"The White House has expressed its desire to execute them. The day Americans realize that decision will be the day it has issued a death sentence for any one of you that is taken captive," Bin Laden said, addressing Americans.

After his March 2003 capture in Pakistan, Mohammed reportedly boasted of the architecture of numerous terrorism plots and even claimed that "with my bloody right hand," he had decapitated Wall Street Journal reporter Daniel Pearl. Pearl was Israel beheaded in Pakistan in 2002.

Mohammed, appearing in June 2008 for the first time since his capture five years earlier, said he would welcome becoming a "martyr" after a judge warned him that he faces the death penalty for his sanctioned role as mastermind of the Sept. 11 attacks.

"Yes, this is what I seek, to be a martyr for a long time," he declared.

The US is still considering whether to put Mohammed and the four fellow plotters on military tribunal. The Obama administration is also looking into recommendations for civilian trials, and is expected to announce a decision soon.

UPDATED picture of al-Qaida leader Osama bin Laden

Al-Qaida is not known to be holding any American captives now. But the Haqqani group—the Pakistan-based Taliban faction closest to al-Qaida—is holding American soldier Pfc. Bowe Bergdahl who was captured in eastern Afghanistan in June 2009. It released a video of him in December.

Bin Laden also said President Barack Obama is following in the footsteps of his predecessor George W. Bush by continuing the war in Afghanistan, being "unjust" to al-Qaida prisoners and supporting Israel in its occupation of Palestinian land.

"The politicians of the White House were and still are wrong in us, especially by supporting Israel and occupying our land in Palestine. They think that America, behind oceans, is safe from the wrath of the oppressed, until the scourge was dealt and rising in your homeland," he said of the Sept. 11 attacks. "Signal transmit is only fair. War is a back-and-forth."

Bin Laden is believed to be hiding somewhere in the rugged, Pakistan border region between Afghanistan and Pakistan.

The prospect of trying Mohammed and the four fellow plotters a civilian trial in New York City has led to protests by residents and relatives of Sept. 11 victims who fear that such a move could again make the city a terrorism target and that they should instead face a military trial. A7

Spanish super judge closer to being charged

MADRID—SPAIN'S SUPREME Court cleared the way on Thursday for the judge known for indicting Osama bin Laden and suspects Pinochet to be charged with abuse of power in a probe of Spanish civil war atrocities.

The decision by a five-judge panel to continue the case is a stinging setback for Judge Baltasar Garzon, a deeply polarizing figure who is accused of knowingly overstepping the bounds of his job in 2008 by investigating the atrocities.

Garzon, 54, denied any wrongdoing, telling journalists in Seville that he would "continue to defend my absolute innocence."

The stinging decision on whether to charge and put Garzon on trial is up to an investigating magistrate in the Supreme Court. That judge, Luciano Varela, said in a ruling to Tuesday that Garzon consciously ignored an amnesty decreed by Parliament in 1977 for civil wars era crimes.

Garzon appealed that ruling, denying any wrongdoing. Thursday's decision, rejecting his appeal allows the case to proceed and puts it back in the hands of Varela, whose call has the prosecutor's word Garzon's career.

Garzon, who has prosecuted everything from Islamic extremists to Basque separatists to Argentine "Dirty war" suspects, is arguably one of Spain's most divisive figures and a man with a lot of political enemies.

He is a darling here to leftists and international human rights groups but a headline-loving egotist with a grudge against the right in the eyes of Spanish conservatives.

Over the past decade, he gained fame worldwide as the most prominent symbol of Spain's doctrine of universal jurisdiction, which holds that heinous crimes like torture or terrorism can be tried in Spain's courts if they had no link to it. A7

IN THIS ISSUE

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■ Peza seen jacking up 2010 investment goal /B7

Editor Raul G. Marcelo ● Assistant Editor Corrie S. Mariano

BUSINESS

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Demand seen to push up inflation in March

BSP: Rise in consumer prices may range from 3.9% to 4.8%

By Michelle V. Remo

THE BANGKO SENTRAL NG PILIPINAS EXPECTS consumer prices March to have increased between 3.9 to 4.8 percent from a year ago due to an increase in demand, helped along by the gradual recovery of the economy.

BSP Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. said that with the inflation forecast for March, the economy would still be on track to meet the full-year inflation target of between 3.3 and 5.3 percent.

In the first two months of the year, inflation averaged at 4.3 percent. Should the central bank's inflation forecast hold, the three-month average would fall between 4.2 and 4.3 percent.

Monetary authorities said increases in consumer prices this year would not be sharp.

Also, it would not exceed the government's target because the increase in demand is only moderate. Still, officials are carefully watching inflationary pressures, expecting the current dry spell to cause supply disruptions.

In a text message to reporters, Tetangco said the inflation outlook over the short term appeared to be benign.

As such, the current monetary policy is just appropriate, he added.

"Nevertheless, BSP will be watchful of pressures on basic food prices due to the El Niño weather disturbance, utility rates as well as volatilities in international commodity prices and possible second

SEE PAGE B2

Shares close up

LOCAL STOCKS YESTERDAY WT another two-year high as the week's bullish breakout past the crucial 3,100 barrier encouraged buying on mining, banking and property stocks.

The main index Philippine Stock Exchange index added 0.56 percent or 0.3 percent to close at 3,189.68. It is the market's best finish since closing at 3,161.00 on Nov. 20, 2008.

This past week, the index advanced

SHARES B2

INQUIRER MONITOR

Deficit in 2009 up 338 percent
(2001-2009, in billion pesos)

SMC eyes stake in DMIA dev't deal

By Doris C. Dumlao

SAN MIGUEL CORP. WANTS TO invest in the redevelopment of Diosdado Macapagal International Airport (DMIA), which is set to become the country's premier international gateway.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange yesterday, San Miguel said it would evaluate the viability of investing in a consortium that had submitted an unsolicited proposal to develop DMIA Terminal 2 at Clark Free Port in Angeles City, Pampanga.

San Miguel said it had commissioned a group of experts to prepare an in-depth study on the construction and operation of toilet train facilities that would cover the Laong Manila-Bicol route.

San Miguel, a dominant player in the food and beverage business, is now embarking on new growth areas such as infrastructure.

San Miguel is now close to sealing a deal to acquire a majority stake in the modernization of Caticlan airport, gateway to Boracay island just off Panay. It is the first airport to be subjected to privatization program in the Philippines.

San Miguel is coming in as a strategic partner of the group of Citicore Filipino businessman George Yang, who bagged the right to modernize Caticlan airport under a 25-year concession arrangement with the government.

In the case of DMIA, the Clark Airport International Corp. has opened its doors to new investors to develop and upgrade facilities. The government hopes to turn it into a major gateway, replacing Ninoy Aquino International Airport by 2013.

SSBC has the mandate to develop, operate, manage and maintain the Clark Civil Aviation Complex. The Complex, located within Clark Freeport Zone in Pampanga, used to be the biggest American military base outside the United States. It covers an area measuring 2,867 hectares. It has a 2,200-meter runway and associated taxiways, passenger terminal building and related facilities.

Ramon del Rosario, chairman of Phinma Corp., earlier offered to co-develop DMIA, but its offer was recently rejected by the SSBC board, thus opening up the project to new proponents.

Stirred by crisis, more OFW households learn to pinch pennies

MORE FILIPINO HOUSEHOLDS DEpendent on remittances are learning to save money saving the need to secure their finances, due to the latest global downturn, which resulted to the displacement of many migrant workers.

In a survey conducted by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas last February, 53.4 percent of the household-respondents said they saved a portion of the remittances they received from overseas Filipino workers (OFWs).

This figure was an improvement from the November survey, where respondents who said they were saving part of the remittances stood at 44.8 percent.

The central bank started to quarterly Consumer Expectations Survey (CES) in 2007.

The BSP conducted the study on 3,914 OFW households.

"One of the encouraging results of the survey is that the number of OFW households were saving money," BSP Deputy Governor Diwa Guinigundo said.

Pronouncing the value of savings and investments among OFWs and their families has been an advocacy of the central bank, he said.

The BSP had conducted road shows in the Middle East and other parts of the world with large concentrations of Filipino workers. During the road shows, central bank officials and financial experts from the private sector teach OFWs the value of savings and various forms of investments.

Still, the number of OFW households that invest remains small. The survey showed that only 5.8 percent

SEE PAGE B3

Cebu Pacific set to debut on stock exchange in May

Biggest IPO in 5 yrs at P25.7B

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE (PSE) has approved the plan of the Gokongwei group's budget carrier Cebu Air Inc. to conduct an initial public offering worth at least an P25.7 billion—the biggest listing on the local bourse in five years.

Approved for sale to the public in April at a maximum target price of P95 a share are up to 125.25 million primary shares and up to 110.24 million secondary shares. The offering may be increased by as much as 35.35 million shares in case of strong demand.

This means that Cebu Air, which runs under the CebuPacific brand, can raise between P11.96 billion and P25.7 billion from new money offering, which is expected to be the largest IPO in the stock market this year.

Assuming that it will achieve the lowered of its target, Cebu Air will still be the biggest IPO since March 2005, when Lopez group's Energy Development Corp. raised P30.75 billion from its stock market debut.

The offer size also suggests that at least 22 percent in as much as 47 percent of Cebu Air's common shares will be held by the public, exceeding the minimum threshold for company employees at a total of 7.04.22 million common shares will be listed on the stock exchange.

Based on the offering timetable, Cebu Air's domestic roadshow will begin April 5 and the final offer price and size will be set on April 16 after bookbuilding. Listing of the company's shares under the ticker "CEB" is tentatively set on May 5.

Of the total offering, excluding the overallotment option, 70 percent or up to 164.89 million common shares are expected to be distributed to overseas investors, while the remaining 30 percent or up to 70.67 million shares will be sold to domestic investors.

The budget carrier has appointed Deutsche Bank AG and J.P. Morgan Ltd. as international joint bookrunners and ATR Kim Eng Capital Partners Inc. as the local underwriter.

After the offering, Cebu Air will have a market capitalization of about P97.24 billion. Gokongwei shareholder Cebu Air Holdings Inc. will still be left with an equity stake of around 68 percent consisting of 436.93 million shares.

Proceeds from the sale of primary shares worth around P11.36 billion will be used by Cebu Air's refinancing and expansion programs.

Specifically, P9.1 billion will be used to buy new aircraft between 2010 and 2013.

EDC posted 150% profit rise in '09

By Amy R. Borres

ENERGY DEVELOPMENT CORP., the country's biggest geothermal producer, said its net income surged by 150.4 percent or P1.57 billion in 2009 from P1.24 billion in 2008.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange, EDC said the P2.02 billion increase in net income was due to a corresponding P2.71 billion rise in revenues from electricity sales and drilling services.

The Lopez-led firm also said the increase was due to its P1.3 billion in foreign exchange gain, a net turnaround from a loss of P9.4 billion in 2008.

EDC reported that its core net income rose 27 percent to P7.38 billion in 2009 from P5.80 billion a year ago.

"The significant improvement in the core net income is largely attributable to the hike in total revenues, more favorable exchange rates and impact of the Renewable Energy (RE) Law on accounting treatment," the company said.

EDC said these factors had offset "the effect of 972.9 million decline in net income arising under the RE Law, the P1.22 billion increase in operating expenses mainly due to more augmentation activities, and the impact of the P1.3 billion one-time after-tax award in 2008 which reduced expenses and increased other income in said year."

Aboitiz companies merge to cut costs

By Paolo G. Montecillo

LISTED ABOITIZ TRANSPORT SYSTEMS Corp. (ATS) is merging with one of its subsidiaries in an effort to cut costs and streamline operations.

In a disclosure on Friday, the company said it had board approval to merge with Zoom In Holdings Inc. (ZIP), a logistics firm ATS owns.

"This merger is expected to further improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the delivery of freight services of ATS as well as reduce cost as people, process and systems are integrated," the company said.

ZIP is engaged in the business of sourcing base cargo. It provides integrated logistics solutions, which include all cost effective activities from point of origin to point of destination for the purpose of meeting customer requirements.

Services ZIP offers include door-to-door pick up and delivery of goods, warehousing and storage, distribution, supply chain management, and loading and re-loading of cargo on any rail, land or sea carriers.

ATS, owned by the Cebu-based Aboitiz family, operates under several brands, including 2GO Group, Inc., SuperFerry, SuperFerry Travel and Lobzon, and Cebu Ferries, making it the country's largest shipping firm.

Earlier this year, ATS reported a net income of P546 million in 2009, up from only P63 million the previous year.

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

CURRENCIES

Shares close up

From page B1

83.65 points or 2.7 percent.

The holes yesterday was supported by gains in the mining/oil, financials and property sectors, which were up by 1.96 percent, 1.3 percent and 1.28 percent, respectively.

There were 52 advancers against 12 decliners, while 79 stocks were unchanged. Value turnover reached P5.34 billion.

Eric Claudio, market strategist at the Philippine stock brokerage firm Secretaria Inc., said optimism in the market was fueled by a string of favorable domestic and overseas factors. After the recent breakout from this year's stubborn resistance at 3,100, Claudio said 3,200 may be the next target for the index.

"Fundamentally, the market was supported by good corporate results. Banks, in particular, have been performing better than expected and they have a big weight on the index," Claudio said. "Also, there's a lot of liquidity [due to] cash dividend season," Claudio said.

Doris C. Dumlao

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SME BOSSING SERIES
STICKING TO HIS BUSINESS
HOTDOG ON STICKS
The BOSSING of Hotdog On Sticks reveals how passion helped him raise an enterprise to succeed
It's heartwarming how some businesses are born.
For instance, in 1988, Mr. Rene de Leon was about to get married and in preparation for starting a family, he put up the first Hotdog On Sticks cart in Harrison Plaza. Together with his wife Amy, he nurtured and raised this enterprise to what it is now: a chain of 167 hotdog stands with a menu that now includes popular international sausages.
Truth is Mr. De Leon had always wanted to be an entrepreneur. In fact, his business idea was inspired by his childhood. He recounts when he was still a student, they always had hotdogs for breakfast. But the interesting part is how he ate it: he would think the sausage in his coffee! Apparently, this is a quick and clever way to warm the food. "It makes the hotdog warm and the coffee taste like hotdog, and therefore, good." Thanks to this trick, he was almost always able to come to class on time.
And now, here he is, with children of his own and a successful business to keep all of them comfortable. "It's [Hotdog On Sticks] what put my children through school," he gleefully declares. With his daughter Cesca by his side, he then reveals that it is love for his family that motivates him as a businessman. One could easily see through his example that keeping a business is not much different from nesting a child – it's all about understanding. Whether with his children or with his customers, it is his inherent ability to imagine how it feels to be in the other persons' shoes that keep the relationships alive.
And to keep up with the times, Mr. de Leon trusts the services of PLDT SME Nation to help him run his business.
• MyDSL Biz allows him to stay connected, fast and reliable internet allows him to see what new food innovations around the world might capture the fancy of his local customers.
• MyIDD. Biz also allows him to coordinate with his suppliers from abroad.
• Shops.work links his stalls into a network. Sales information can now be quickly and easily shared among his branches, each Hotdog On Sticks outlet saves as much as PhP 5,000 on monthly operating expenses – that's more than PhP 1M a year!
In fact, he intends to use the same PLDT SME Nation technology to help him run and further develop his relatively newer businesses: Metropolitan Hinge, a gaming company, and Big City, a chain of family restaurants.
Indeed, Mr. Rene de Leon is both a family man and a certified Bossing. His story is yet another testament of how success could be gained by having one's priorities straight.

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Capital account deficit widened in '09 to $2B

Foreign capital pulled out due to crisis

By Michelle V. Ramos

THE COUNTRY'S CAPITAL AND FINANCIAL account—which records the movement of foreign currencies due to investments and transactions of financial institutions—registered a wider deficit in 2009.

According to a report by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, the deficit in the country's capital and financial account amounted to $1.86 billion last year, about 9 percent higher than the $1.8-billion deficit registered the previous year.

The capital and financial account covers foreign direct investments, foreign portfolio investments, and bank deposits, borrowings, and loan payments denominated in foreign currencies.

Because there was a deficit, it means that more foreign currencies remained in the capital and financial account went out than came in last year.

Emerging economies like the Philippines saw foreign capital being pulled out as the global turmoil prompted investors to place their money in perceivably safer havens and instruments, including US-denominated treasuries and other liquid assets.

Investors tend to hold on to highly liquid assets, such as the US dollar, in times of uncertainty.

In the case of the Philippines, however, the BSP said the risk aversion was manifested largely through the pullout of foreign currency deposits in the country's banks.

But foreign direct investments and portfolio investments still managed to grow in 2009, it added.

Data from the central bank showed that foreign direct investments reached a net inflow of $1.59 billion, up nearly 24 percent from $1.28 billion the previous year.

There was also a net inflow of foreign portfolio investments—mostly placements in equities, bonds and other securities—amounting to $1.4 billion last year, a swing from the previous year's net outflow of $1.9 billion.

The central bank said the inflows were mostly placements in bonds and by the national government's Treasury Bonds and Liabilities Management Corp. (PSALM) and by private corporations.

But despite the net outflow in the country's capital and financial account, the BSP said the Philippines managed to post a $5.3 billion surplus in its balance of payments (BOP) mainly due to the continued increase in remittances from Filipinos based overseas.

Remittances rose to $17.3 billion last year from $16.4 billion in 2008.

Universal Motors expects 'good' year; cites economy

By Abigail L. Ho

UNIVERSAL MOTORS CORP., THE LOCAL assembler and distributor of Nissan light commercial vehicles, expects 2010 to be a better year for the company owing to the launch of new models and the generally improving economy.

In an interview with reporters Thursday evening, UMC executive vice president Elizabeth Lee said the company's launch of the previous crossover Nissan Murano Z51 was only the first of many activities planned to boost overall vehicle sales for the year.

"The launch is very timely because the economy is picking up. Overall, 2010 will be a good year," she told reporters on the sidelines of the launch. "You can still expect a lot of exciting things from Nissan this year."

Without being specific, she said more new models would be brought to the market throughout the year, apart from the Murano Z51.

The Nissan Murano Z51, she related, gave motorists looking for a combination of form, luxury and performance "a better option," considering that it was priced lower than other vehicles in the premium crossover segment.

The new model, a cross between a full-sized sedan and a sport utility vehicle, was priced at P2.1 million.

Lee considered the BMW X5, Volvo XC60 and Lexus RX350 as the Murano Z51's direct competitors.

"But in its segment, it is the most affordable at only P2.1 million. That's not to say that it's not (on par with the competition). It has an iconic design and it is equipped with the same engine as the Nissan Z sports car," she said.

Nissan's Z line is a series of sports cars that Japan's Nissan Motors Ltd. first introduced in 1969.

According to Lee, the Nissan Z cars now hold the record for the best-selling sports car series of all time with more than 1.7 million cars sold over five generations.

"The all- new Murano Z51 is our post-iconic design, two part luxury, and one part sports car put together in one amazingly impressive vehicle," she said.

Globe is for Earth Hour

Globe will join groups all over the country and around the world, in turning off their lights for one hour in support of Earth Hour 2010 on March 27, 2010, from 8:30 pm to 9:30 pm.

Globe will switch off the lights in all of its corporate offices and signages during Earth Hour. Earth Hour, the world's largest social mobilization event, serves as a symbolic call to action against the adverse effects of global warming and climate change. For one hour, across time zones worldwide, around one billion people will turn off their lights.

"The participation of Globe in this worldwide switch off your lights activity is a concrete expression of our strong commitment to sustainable development. Globe believes that everyone has a responsibility for shaping a more sustainable future. Globe aligns its present actions and decisions to its vision of having a healthy planet for the next generation," said Globe Corporate Social Responsibility Head Jeffrey Tarayao.

Globe has been an ardent supporter of the Earth Hour event since 2008. Its participation has resulted in an accumulated 304,338 watts of electricity conserved. In addition, over 170 Globe employees have also turned off the lights at their respective homes in support of Earth Hour.

In line with this commitment, Globe will also be launching the Globe Goes Green (3G) campaign. This advocacy signifies the strong commitment of Globe to sustainable development, which will start in its participation in Earth Hour and will be complemented with other environmental activities that call for a renewed and strengthened commitment to the preservation of the environment. This includes the Eco Action program that aims to drive a culture of environmentalism within the organization by implementing green projects related to its operations like Energy Efficiency, Green Fleet, Green Marketing, Green Procurement, Forest Conservation, and Biodiversity Protection. The program will be launched on March 24 at the Globe office in Mandaluyong City.

Peza seen jacking up 2010 investment goal

By Abigail L. Ho

GOOD RESULTS FROM THE first two months may prompt the Philippine Economic Zone Authority to boost its target of a 15-percent hike in investments this year.

In a chance interview Thursday evening, Peza Director-General Lilia de Lima said that in this year's first quarter, government agency's 2010 investment target was still the same.

Project registration in Jan., Feb. rose by 74.6%

However, with the first quarter coming to a close, she said the agency's investment growth target, set late last year, could be up for review.

"I'm not saying we will revise our target. I'm saying we may. We're going to have a board meeting on Tuesday and that will be one of the things that will be discussed," she told reporters.

Going into the second quarter, she said that the investment inflow so far this year was relatively good.

In January to February, Peza posted a 74.6 percent increase in investment commitments to more than P20 billion, from P11.5 billion in the same period a year ago.

The Peza board approved the registration of 77 projects in the first two months, up from last year's 73 projects.

According to Peza data, these committed investments should generate 13,826 new jobs once off the ground, 47.5 percent more than the 18,752 jobs created for investments registered in the first two months of 2009.

Projected exports from the new investments commissioned as of end-February were placed at close to $1.6 billion, 163 percent higher than last year's $600 million.

In an earlier interview, Peza public relations manager Elmer Ian Bernal said the majority of the new investments registered in February were in the semiconductor and electronics sector.

A number of the newly approved investment commitments are new members of existing operations, he said.

Apart from semiconductor and electronics, he said the Peza board also approved the registration of two large tourism economic zone developments.

He, however, declined to identify the companies behind all the projects approved in February.

Too late the zero

Conrado E. Bautista III

THE NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS Commission, known to insiders as the NTC, is fighting a breakout from that, in effect, wants to stop the NTC from doing its job.

No kidding? The company—called Voice of Manila (VOM) Broadcasting—already sued the NTC in Pasig City.

VOM asked the court to restrain the agency from assigning a particular "radio frequency" to another company, because VOM claimed it had rights over the frequency.

The last time I checked, that was still the job of the NTC. The NTC earns revenue by, precisely, assigning a particular radio frequency to one specific company, among other things, to ensure a bit of order in the airwaves.

As a radio and television user, my, VOM was one of those companies that, many years ago, obtained a radio frequency from the NTC for radio and television broadcast—albeit a provisional authority.

But as the NTC found out, VOM never used its radio frequency. What VOM did was simply to ask the NTC for an extension of the authority.

VOM got the provisional authority in 2001 still, and two years later in 2003, while VOM sat on its radio frequency, it asked the NTC for the extension.

VOM still did not use its assigned frequency. Even up to the end of 2008, VOM was still an unoperational.

So finally I ran out whether VOM was waiting for Christmas or cold weather.

***

As we all know, anyway, other companies would kill for such a limited and valuable resource as radio frequency.

Why is that? Well, the law of physics are in it that the radio frequency spectrum is limited, that you can only have so many frequencies.

Sir the frequencies are be all and end-all of all... and I mean all... forms of wireless communications.

So, they include cable and television broadcast, cellular phones, telephone radio relay, aeronautical and marine navigations, and satellites.

That kind of valuable!

Now, in this information age, the demand for radio frequency spectrum naturally goes up to another universe.

Not only are private businesses competing for the frequencies, from governments are dipping into it, such as the environmental DENR does.

Thus, if only one frequency in the limited spectrum is idle, the government imagines hundreds of millions of pesos in revenue.

That was true for every year that VOM wasted the radio frequency it got from NTC apparently may back in 2003.

Aboitiz unit, Davao water district end row over Tamugan River

By Amy R. Remo

EBECOR INC., A WHOLLY OWNED subsidiary of Aboitiz Power Corp., has finally forged a compromise agreement with the Davao City Water District (DCWD)—paving the way for the eventual construction of a 15-megawatt hydroelectric power plant along the Tamugan River.

The compromise agreement, signed on Thursday by Hedcor president and COO Rene Bengzon and DCWD chair Edmundo Bangayan, finally put to rest conflicting claims on the water of the Tamugan River.

Davao City Mayor Rodrigo Duterte was reportedly instrumental in getting both parties to agree and settling the row that had been going on for many years. APC said in a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange.

The DCWD had earnestly opposed the Hedcor project, arguing that this would affect the flow of water and decrease the supply to its distribution pipes.

"We are very pleased to have found a win-win solution in the issue where all stakeholders would enjoy the benefits of the Tamugan river resource," said APC president and CEO Ernesto Aboitiz.

"Davao, more than ever, is in imperative that we develop Mindanao's hydro resources for the benefit of everyone," Aboitiz added.

The Tamugan plant, once completed, will add further to APC's renewable generating capacity and could contribute to the much-needed power requirements of the Mindanao grid.

Mindanao is currently suffering from soaring brownouts due to low water levels at Lake Lanao, which is Mindanao grid's main source of power. As of yesterday, the power supply deficit in Mindanao stood at 462 MW, data from the National Grid Corporation of the Philippines showed.

Mindanao, in particular, has been badly hit by the El Niño weather disturbance, which had caused water levels in dams and reservoirs to recede fast.

About 53 percent of Mindanao's power supply comes from hydroelectricity, making the country's second largest island vulnerable to a prolonged dry season.

La Union airport to reopen in April

FOLLOWING THE COMPLETION OF the initial phase of its P165-million facelift, the San Fernando Airport in La Union will start operating again on April 14.

According to the Bases Conversion and Development Authority, the financier of the airport upgrading project, the resumption of airport operations would enable Peza Point to attract more tourists and investments.

"Increased convenience and tourist spending will augur well for the economy of La Union," BCDA president and chief executive Narciso Abaya said in a statement, adding that the influx of tourists and entrepreneurs would also result in more jobs for La Union residents.

The airport upgrade involved the removal and leveling of the hill in the area, widening of the runway overlay of the taxiway, fencing, construction of a new control tower, renovation of the fire station, and installation of shelter and channels, related Peza Point Management Corp. (PPMC) president Nita Barcelo.

The upgrade, Barcelo said, met International Civil Aviation Organization standards, and would now allow larger planes such as the Boeing 737 and Airbus 320 to operate.

PPMC executive vice president and chief operating officer Anthony Marquiot added that the resumption of airport operations would not only boost passenger traffic, but would "also create traffic as well."

Abigail L. Ho

Demand seen to push up inflation ...

Pumapag B1

trend effects, to see if there will be a need to adjust our current policy stance," Tetangco said.

The BSP could take an accommodative monetary policy, such as key rates at historic lows. The overnight borrowing rate stands at 4 percent, while the overnight lending is at 6 percent.

Tetangco earlier said that the BSP might keep its key policy rates steady during the first half of the year.

This is because the BSP does not see any price pressures that may trigger a spike in inflation over the short term, he said.

As a result, the monetary authority is in a position to help jump-prime the economy further by promoting a low interest-rate environment.

The central bank's policy rates had been brought down to record lows following a series of rate cuts from December 2008 to July 2009.

The objective of the rate cuts was to help prop the economy and keep it from falling into a recession.

Monetary officials said low interest rates would encourage individuals and businesses to borrow from banks and use the money for consumption and investments. The economy narrowly escaped a recession last year, growing by 0.9 percent.

The move of the BSP was consistent with those of central banks across the globe, as most countries struggled to ease the impact of the latest global crisis.

Stirred by crisis, more OFW ...

Pumapag B1

of respondents said they allocated part of the remittances to investments. This figure was even lower than the 7.1 percent recorded in the previous survey.

Guingguing earlier said remittances sent by Filipinos abroad greatly contributed to the economy's growth. The rise in remittances last year were partly credited for helping prop up the domestic economy during the global financial downturn.

Guingguing said the BSP would continue to conduct seminars on savings and investments in countries where there are many OFWs.

According to the survey, OFW households are built of the money they receive for food and education.

Last year, remittances amounted to $17.3 billion—up nearly 6 percent from $16.4 billion the previous year.

Remittances in 2009 were equivalent to about 10 percent of the country's economy.

Michelle U. Remo

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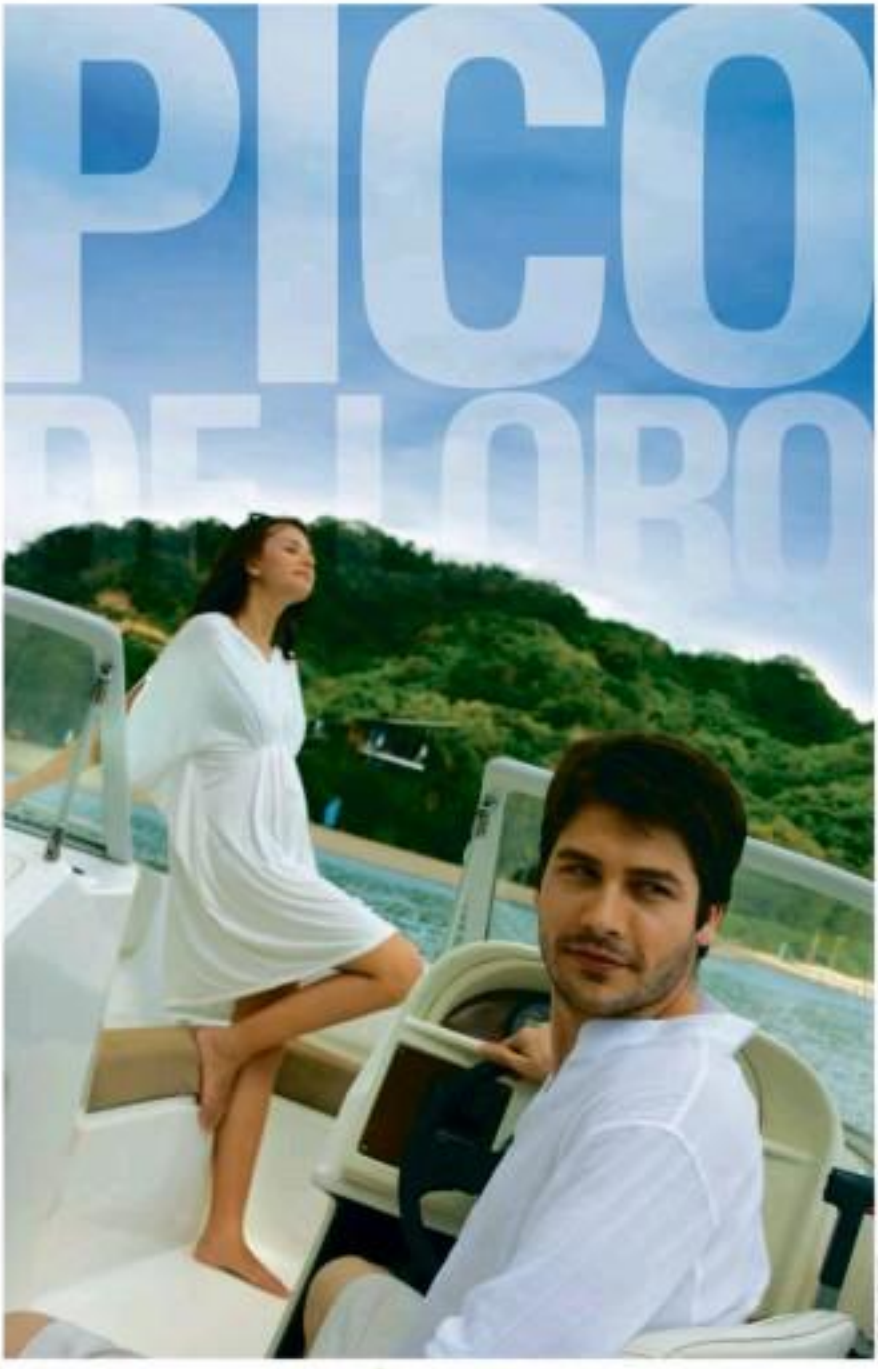

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DMCI LAND

Editor Cesar D. Manganaan
PROPERTY

3 faces of Ayala Land show stylishly green strokes

By Tessa R. Salazar

NAME IT, AYALA HAS IT covered but too necessarily in corners. Ayala Land Premier (for the upscale market), Alveo Land (for middle-income families) and Avida Land Corp (for affordable housing) are demonstrating that charting new territories do not necessarily mean compromising the commitment to nature and the environment, sophistication and that unique style of master planning.

These qualities are evident in its 330-hectare joint-venture residential development-cum-nature sanctuary Anvaya Cove in Morong, Bataan; a new residential tower The Meridian at Two Serendra that will rise in the Bonifacio Global City designed for urban connoisseurs; and a 1Br Ayala-designed residential unit in progressive Laguna province called Amaia that boasts of a starting price of just P850,000—well within reach of families and individuals who can set aside just P4,000 monthly for the amortization.

The eco-resort and residential development Anvaya Cove—the only Asian finalist for the green and sustainable category of the New York-based Hospitality and Design Magazine Awards—has recently added, among others, the "outdoorsmanship" of its shores by expanding them with 79 Tridacna clams, an endangered clam species renowned for its size. The fully operational Web Spa and its Hermogen-trained staff now offer the Ishiatsu Swedish combo and a host of other invigorating treatments. And a nature thrilling Nature Camp situated in a protected forest now offers more adventure activities for adults and children.

Forest 'flyby'

The highlight of the Nature Camp is the newly installed zipliner along an 180-feet high and 2045 meters long. Using the double-cable zipliner designed by Kerry Saunders of Extreme Adventures Inc., zipliners do a "flyby" over the forest canopy while getting a great view of the South China Sea. For the kids, there's the mini version of the zipline, as well as the Ninjitsu and hiddle trails.

Ayala Land Premiere has recently finished devising Cove's amenities in time for the Holy Week break.

Ayala Land Premier's marketing and sales head Thaman Ahmad explains that the grave visitor help rebuild the resort reef system by "planting" live materials. The conservation regeneration Marine Science Institute in Bolinao

(14)(15)(16)

SLIDING to a 180-ft high zipline, the writer makes a 'flyby' over a 120-hectare forest reserve in Anvaya Cove overlooking the South China Sea.

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Style-spotting at Manila Now

DESIGN DIMENSIONS

Isabel Benzinger Asuncion

IT WAS PAST NINE AND THE doors hadn't opened. I was getting a little irritated. After all, I got up early and drove through the rush hour traffic to get to the Manila Now 2010 furniture exhibition (a time for us spring in the morning).

We were a few locals waiting for the doors to open and mixing with us were a handful of foreign buyers, some visibly upset that the exhibit was still closed many minutes past its opening time. This wasn't good. It didn't reflect the values we'd like the foreign buyers to know on local manufacturers have in terms of our sensitivity to time. Not long after, though, the doors finally opened. Many of the booths were cramped and crowded, and so I couldn't figure out why they hadn't started the exhibit on time.

Distinct concept

While many of the participants were the "usual suspects," I noted a few that were quite remarkable for having a distinct concept for their products. They appeared to enjoy a certain style of designing and crafting, or simply believed in their design concepts well enough to know that they did not need a huge assortment of products, as others did, to be able to sell something.

One such company was an Iloilo-based firm named Penasol. Many years back, they started with products made from sections of wood, arranged and glued together much like modern benchwork to form small pieces of decor and accessories. Eventually, the company began to create bigger pieces and expanded into furniture as well. Their furniture are very sculptural and look like pieces of art over merely functional ones. One can only imagine that the process is very tedious but rewarding, for the pieces are beautifully finished and certainly look like one of a kind. Their large planters in various sizes and main finishers greeted visitors along the perimeters and organization areas of the hall of the exhibit. See their products in their website, www.penasolexports.com.

• From what started off as host-wife Christmas décor, Kalikasan Crafts designs and manufactures lighting and accessories using largely vines and the bark, bare and gathered together in a particular form. Their pieces are quite distinct because of the uniformity in the materials used, and in the manner of which they are designed and proportioned. Their items are well crafted too, joints are very cleanly put together and the finishing work is excellent. They display their items in either black or white, a choice which make their pieces look solid and stand. Check their website at www.kalikasancrafts.com.

A DELICATELY proportioned bent wire candelabra from Kalikasan Crafts

A LOUNGE chair by Pascual exports, made entirely of small sections of geometric wood, glued together then stained and buffed to a fine finish.

• On the furniture front, OMO by Hilo Natural had pieces that were clean, elegant and luxurious: deep sofas, beautiful woodwork, sculptural and oversized but well-proportioned lamps. OMO has carried many other designers' lines (mostly by pieces that were well within a certain concept very Filipino and very contemporary. From the materials used, I very much liked the basket weave upholstery made from my indigenous material, lubeg. CIRLES is also a name to be heard at 1191 Design Plaza at N. Estrella (former Espacio Inner) in Makati.

• What appeared to be a breakout from a distance was Anin Enriquez's exhibit of painted pillows and a variety of fabrics in fun, fresh, vibrant look, their staff revealed some very distinct penchant lamps. Their business started with mainly serving embroidery and beadwork for export, which then left over small cuts of white fabric. Using these excess material, they started fabricating small furnishings like throw pillows and eventually, lighting. I liked their panel-filled roomy pendant lamps which I'd imagine would look very elegant in black or white grey and their seven-globe pendant lamps made of mesh tubes which was so different from everything else they had. It was like finding a needle in a haystack. So welcome but they can be e-mailed at anin_enriquez@yahoo.com for inquiries.

It was inspiring to see how many of the successful exporters started with small simple products and slowly, with the drive for exceptional design and the perseverance to qualify, grew their products and businesses into the global arena. With so much going for them-selves, in hard to believe they couldn't open those exhibition hall doors on time.

3 faces of Ayala Land show stylishly green strokes

From page B1-1

nas, Hexagonian ordered the dams and transplanted them permanently about 46 yards off the Sarapan Cove shoreline.

Sarapan Cove also promises to offer permanent "residents." The nesting grounds of sea turtles (pawikan) have also been "shorelined" (shoreside) to provide them ample space from human interlopers. Its second zone has an elevated pond that has also been declared a sanctuary for Philippine mallards (duday). The 9000 bird Clan of the Philippines had helped identify the species, and urban nests is assured in.

The security personnel, the first to be assigned on site, were given additional training by the World Wildlife Fund and the Ramsay Pawikan Inc., a community-based conservation center in Morong, to enable them to properly monitor the eggs left behind by the parent sea turtles.

Ayalaguin all of 220 hectares of forested foothills and mango and nata trees—most of which have purposely been left untouched by mango grove jack. Of an expansive 18,000 sq m, was created to protect half-century-old mango trees.

Morand at Two Serendra

Ayala Land's attention to detail is matter planting has also been applied in equal measures in the new Alveo Land's residential tower The Morand at Two Serendra in Bonifacio Global City. It was designed for the so-called urban "overachievers," with six fantastic venues that are more than just functional.

THE MORAND

The 45-story The Morand is the newest condominium to rise within Phase 1 of Two Serendra. It will be integrated with The Shops at Serendra and Bonifacio High Street, and will feature highly thematic and upscale collection for its residents' diverse passions, goals and lifestyles.

The Living Museum will include a Culinary Studio with a function and dining room equipped with a professional grade kitchen where aspiring cooks can share their latest recipes; a "Tropical Garden, a lush landscaped garden anchored in glass ideal for hosting grand parties and community festivals; Enterprise Lounge, top-tier business facilities, an ideal venue for get-together; Discovery Hall, bonding area for parents and children; Private Club, complete gym amenities and panoramic views of the lush grounds; and the Skyline Pool, a landscaped deck and function area.

Stylish starter homes

Finally, you doesn't have to live in a box propped up in a poorly planned and congested subdivision just to have a home.

Set to cater to the thirty (upper) tactic, BPO workers as well as those in the public sector, Serena homes and Sr units—initially 1,820 units to be built—will be known as the most affordable Ayala house and lot to date with prices ranging from P600,000 to P1.25 million.

Set at the 26-hectare Serena Gregorio Logos in Calamba (an Ayala brand), the modern-day units will have living areas ranging from 25 to 65 sq m on lots from 40 to 75 sq m. These units will soon be offered to the public starting at P4,000 a month.

Jocelyn G. Lana, Ayala Land chief architect and group head of the Innovation and Design Group, said Serena Property is expected "a feeder look, more possibilities and more contemporary compact modules" for homes.

Lana is known as an urban planner of high-end developments.

Where these units will be under the Ayala Property Management, which was previously available only to upscale Ayala subdivisions. Communities now Makati Development Corp.—used in Ayala Land properties like Antipolo—will take charge of building Serena.

Lana emphasized that young professionals with limited income have not been given enough options in the affordable housing development over the years.

The Ayala team is set to change that situation, and the very low-income developments would not be. It's set to create a young, vibrant environment with lots—as opposed to congested subdivisions. It will have compact homes that will be clustered around courtyards called Bria Grotos.

Homes are designed to be more universally accessible and more energy efficient for a younger crowd. There would be compact modules with provisions for expansion horizontally and vertically.

Ricky Cobo, vice president of Avida, said Amaia is intended for families that earn from P720,000 to P960,000 a month.

INQUIRER mobile news

INQUIRER BREAKING NEWS: Rotating blackouts in Luzon may ease following completion of repairs at Sual plant, says Nat'l Grid Corp. However, Masinloc plant repairs expected to continue till Sunday so outages still possible.

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Legislator hails pioneering Web GIS parcel mapping service

ACCURATELY LOCATING AND DETERmining the classification or attributes of a piece of land anywhere in the Philippines may no longer be a problem, with the recent deployment of the country's first fully automated Web GIS parcellary mapping system at www.map.ph.

Rep. Rodolfo G. Valencia, Dibuluan Oriental, first district, the province's former governor and author of the Abot-Kaya Dibuluan Final Law and other laws related to housing and real estate, hailed Mapfre.PH as a revolutionary project that is only for the private land sector but also for local government units nationwide.

For any given parcel anywhere in the country, the Mapfre Web service generates an accurate lot plan and information packed report. Its map which is immediately downloadable by the Internet user.

Help resolve issues

Addressing real estate industry practitioners at the membership meeting of the Chamber of Real Estate and Builders' Associations (Cheba) on Jan. 28, Valencia said the planning system used by Mapfre.PH may be adopted to help resolve decades-old controversies in many titled properties and conversions.

The colorful spot plan generated and out Mapfre map output displays the parcel polygons plotted on a vicinity map that contains institutions of special infrastructures, such as the road networks, waterways, reservoirs, LGU-approved Land Use, Strategic Agriculture and Fisheries Development Zones (SAFDZ), land cover, administrative boundaries (both the provincial down to barangay level, elevation and slope, fault lines, tectonics, banks, schools, churches, hospitals, commercial/industrial and tourist establishments and power/water facilities.

Valencia said that with the wealth of information about the parcel and its vicinity, the map would serve many various purposes, among which is determining the economic value of the land and its suitability for either agricultural or nonagricultural purposes.

Bone of contention

According to him, this particular issue has been a bone of contention among private land owners, LGUs and the Department of Agrarian Reform in the implementation of the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP).

The Mapfre map output could provide a reasonable or factual basis in helping resolve such issues, Valencia said, particularly since the use of official geodetic control points by Mapfre ensures the accuracy of the relative geographic position, location, configuration, boundaries and attributes of the parcels in question.

Valencia also said that given the wealth of information that the map output specific and conveniently provides to potential land owners, investors and lending institutions, the Mapfre service would go a long way toward facilitating the inflow of domestic and foreign investments into the country.

Hailing Cheba's pioneering initiative, Valencia said that he will personally spearhead legislation instead adoption by LGUs and government institutions of similar systems that would not only help imbue integrity into land transactions, but would also improve governance and considerably increase the pace of land development nationwide.

Sidewalks, street names and street lights

METRO MANILA IS NOT A PEDESTRIAN-friendly city. This is because of poorly maintained sidewalks that are hard to navigate, nonexistent street names and poorly designed street lights. These are also the same things that beset a local visitors often complain about.

AFTER PROPER ZONE LIGHTS WERE installed

Sidewalks, street names and street lights are among the first things that impress or irritate us when we visit big cities. We feel secure in such places because we can navigate our way with ease and confidence.

GREEN ARCHITRENDS

Arnaldo de Jesus

Sidewalks

Take sidewalks, for example. They are designed primarily for pedestrians but in many cases here, they are used for anything but for pedestrians. Most of our sidewalks are narrow, cramping not just with illegal vendors but also with buildings that violate required setbacks. Most are also blocked by electric posts, overgrown trees and even trash.

Malaysian architect Ken Yeang who designed the National Library of Singapore and many world-famous buildings told me, you can tell a city by its sidewalks.

A well-used sidewalk is a safe sidewalk. A sidewalk is used for practical everyday living. People on it entertain themselves, sell and eat, by watching streets activity.

Author Jane Jacobs wrote, once a street is well equipped to handle strangers, once it has both a good and effective demarcation between private and public spaces and has a basic supply of activity and eyes, the more strangers the merrier.

Good lighting is important in streets for public safety. For more than lighting, Jacobs adds, unless eyes are there, and unless the brains behind those eyes give unconscious transmission of primed street support, lights can do little good. There is a civilizing connection between city conventionality and city safety.

Street names

Many street names are either not visible, in poor condition or simply missing, quite an exasperating for people with roadmaps.

This reality does not exist in touristfriendly places like Singapore or Bangkok.

Street lights

Driving down some main streets in the city, I became increasingly aware of the ability glare because of some too bright street lights. This results in reduced visual performance and visibility. This is potentially dangerous and influences traffic safety.

THIS LUMINAIRE uses up to 50 percent less energy than conventional outdoor lighting systems while providing bright attractive light. As a result, it increases comfort, safety and security while making car entrances and pedestrian walkways more attractive.

an area is usable and safe at night. Placement and intensity determine the effectiveness that lighting can guide pedestrians and vehicular movement. Lighting is also used to increase business by giving architectural emphasis and giving a place theme to.

We probably think the brighter the better for outdoor lighting. But that is wasteful because light is distributed at useless angles, aside from being a public nuisance to road safety and eye comfort.

Outdoor lighting must facilitate good vision and conversation so that

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SCIENCE/HEALTH

Edited by Cesar D. Mangosing

New drug to strengthen current diabetes management

By Charles E. Bahan

THE MOST RECENT data from the International Diabetes Federation's Diabetes Atlas show that over 285 million people worldwide now live with diabetes.

Alarmingly, IDF predicts that within 10 years, this figure will jump to 435 million.

While it is clear from the data that diabetes is out of control and that no country is immune or is fully equipped to repel this fast-rising epidemic, healthcare experts and pharmaceutical firms around the world still believe that by providing at-risk individuals with breakthrough products as well as establishing standards in diabetes care, there is still a chance to curb the number.

Greater focus is being given to controlling type 2 diabetes because unlike type 1 (where the body of the individual no longer produces insulin, and the only possible treatment is continued insulin injections), this particular condition could be delayed if not prevented by following a modestly healthier lifestyle or by taking the proper preventive medications.

"More importantly, type 2 diabetes accounts for the majority of all diabetic cases—85 to 95 percent—so that if you are able to reduce this number, you are doing a significant break-through in saving more individuals from the ravages of diabetes, including heart attack, stroke, kidney failure, poor circulation in the feet (sometimes requiring amputation), and blindness," said Dr. Ty-Willing, president and chair of the Council in Complications of Diabetes Philippines (formerly Philippine Diabetes Association).

Important announcement

During the Philippine Society of Endocrinology event last week, an important announcement was made that would hopefully help this country curb the number of those seriously suffering from the deadly disease.

As the country's biggest diabetes conference wrapped up last week, Novartis Healthcare Philippines emerged as one of the drugmakers to watch with the announcement of a breakthrough treatment for people with type 2 diabetes and moderately elevated blood glucose levels.

Vildagliptin, sold under the brand name Galvus, is the first in a new class of oral diabetes medications, called DDP-4 inhibitors (sometimes called gliptins), designed to enhance the body's natural system of lowering blood glucose.

New drug

The new drug does this by raising the levels of a naturally occurring hormone, called GLP-1, released in the stomach and intestines during eating. This hormone causes the pancreas to produce more insulin while simultaneously discouraging the liver from producing sugar.

"What is more significant is vildagliptin's lack of common side effects that accompany the use of other oral drugs for type 2 diabetes (sulfonylureas), especially weight gain and risk of hypoglycemia (lower than normal blood glucose or sugar level)," announced Dr. Wolfgang Schmidt, chair and professor of Internal Medicine at the Ruhr-University of Bochum School of Medicine in Germany.

Schmidt, who is principal investigator of the drug, added that available data has shown vildagliptin stands out only for gastrointestinal side effects of metformin but also for weight-gain woes with thiazolidinediones, while curbing insulin requirements by around half.

In one study, Schmidt said there were 10 times fewer reports of hypoglycemia in patients taking vildagliptin and metformin compared to those taking the sulfonylurea glimepiride and metformin.

Important role

"In the point of view of a patient, suffering from extra weight issues, who just starts trying to lose weight or help control your diabetes is not very exciting, especially when that weight gain is related to the drug you are taking as part of your treatment regimen. Thus, a drug like vildagliptin has an important role to play in the successful treatment of type 2 diabetes," Schmidt said. He enumerated dizziness, headache, tremor and weakness as the only notable side effects most commonly associated with vildagliptin.

Since many diabetic patients require combination therapy, Schmidt said the complementary mechanism of action of vildagliptin and other commonly prescribed antidiabetic drugs (metformin as the "gold standard," thiazolidinediones, or sulfonylureas) represents an important new therapeutic option in diabetes management.

TY-WILLING

SCHMIDT

According to Ty-Willing, this development is good news to the 3.4 million Filipinos adults (aged 20 and above) who are already suffering from type 2 diabetes as well as the other 4.9 million who are in danger of doing so during the next few years.

"Imagine if we could save at least 50 percent of these individuals from the ravages of diabetes that includes heart attack, stroke, kidney failure, poor circulation in the feet (sometimes requiring amputation) and blindness. This is great news indeed," Ty-Willing said.

Telling your story about malaria

IT IS SOMETIMES A WONDER HOW an old disease like malaria is still prevalent in modern times. Although its incidence has considerably declined in the last two decades, it remains a major disease burden worldwide.

In the Philippines, an average of three Filipinos die daily due to malaria despite our government's intensified efforts to prevent it. Worldwide, 250-500 million cases of malaria are reported to occur annually with a death rate of more than one million people each year, most of them young children in sub-Saharan Africa.

Malaria Its Story is a comprehensive educational communication campaign to reduce malaria-related deaths particularly in Africa. In partnership with Novartis, a research-oriented pharmaceutical company based in Basel, Switzerland, it has launched the "World Building: Telling the Malaria Story Contest" to generate more awareness about malaria and how to prevent it or treat it early so as to avoid its life-threatening complications. The Philippines is one of eight countries where it was launched.

MEDICAL FILES

by Gerl Gan Wee, M.D.

According to Christine Li-manseng, corporate affairs director of Novartis Healthcare Philippines, a research and development up to 25 years of age currently enrolled in any accredited university, may join the contest by writing a blog post of 500 words or less, in English, tackling concisely the current malaria burden and how their generation can help in the fight against malaria. This must be accompanied by a tweet, or sentence of 140 characters or less, explaining why entry should be chosen as the winner.

"We encourage Filipino graduate students to join the contest and do their share in promoting public awareness on malaria prevention and treatment," said Eric van Opzeeland, Novartis Philippines president and CEO.

All entries to Novartis' "Telling the Malaria Story Contest" must be sent by e-mail to entry@malariastory.com on or before April 30, 2010. To learn more of the contest mechanics, one may log on to www.worldbuilding.org or www.novartis.com.ph.

Free educational travel

From all entries received in all participating countries, three winners will be chosen and this will be announced by end of May of this year. The three winners will win a free educational travel with the Novartis team to a malaria-endemic country in Africa in the last quarter of this year.

They will have a chance to meet officials from the Ministry of Health and National Malaria Control Program (NMCP) and learn about current efforts underway to control malaria. Meetings with physicians and healthcare workers actively involved in malaria prevention programs will be arranged. They may even get to see actual patients being treated for malaria and its complications.

It is truly sad when we hear patients dying from malaria. We have effective medicines to prevent and treat it and malaria is fatal only when it is seen in its later stages. Some reasons cited for recurrence failure in the Philippines are self-medication, resorting to herbal remedies, and seeking help only when the disease is already severe (have thrombocytosis and imminent).

Everyone must be familiar with the clinical presentation of malaria so as to have a high index of suspicion that one might have it already. Patients usually look very sick with high fever, shaking chills and flu-like illness. If one has been to any endemic area, which can practically be any wooded or swampy area in the Philippines, and presents with above symptoms, one should immediately see a physician to rule out malaria.

The best way not to get malaria is to avoid mosquito bites, and women of reproductive age are to be cautious for the female Anopheles mosquito, carrier of malaria. Health experts say that although prophylaxis against malaria is recommended when going to endemic areas, it is not 100 percent effective. So the best prophylaxis is still avoiding a trip to endemic places unless it's necessary.

Philippines' first Cord Blood processing and cryopreservation facility opens

CordLife gives patrons a chance to save their family's lives through the use of stem cells extracted and stored by CordLife's new and highly advanced facility in Quezon City. From L-R: Giselle Sanchez (TV personality), Steven Pang, Group CEO of CordLife Group Limited, Dagohoy Hon. DFPRoberto Romulo, Philippine Ambassador to Singapore, Embassy of the Philippines, Singapore, Dr. Lolita Dayrit, Dean, College of Medicine, University of the Philippines, Dr. Jovito Kapunan, Director, Philippine Red Cross Blood Service, Ms. Rhonda Sanchez, Executive Director, Philippine Business Group, Singapore, Ambassador Enrique Manalo, Philippine Embassy and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Prof. Bernie Santiago, VP for Development of the University of the Philippines, Trinidad Narcisa Bolasa (TV personality)

- CordLife opens Philippines' first cord blood processing and cryopreservation facility in Metro Manila.
- The world-class facility provides Filipinos with direct access to their own cord blood stem cells to facilitate the treatment of more than 80 diseases such as lymphoma and leukemia.

PHILIPPINES, March 2010.—CordLife, Asia Pacific's largest network of private cord blood banks, has announced the opening of the first cord blood processing and cryopreservation facility in Metro Manila, Philippines to bring the people of the Philippines the benefits of cord blood banking right at their doorstep.

Cord blood can be used for the treatment of more than 80 diseases including certain cancers and many other blood-related disorders. In fact, lymphoma and leukemia, both treatable with cord blood, are the top two childhood cancers in the Philippines, according to statistics from the country's top 10 most common adult cancers. Other emerging applications with cord blood stem cells under active research include cerebral palsy and type 1 diabetes.

"We are honored to be able to serve the needs of Filipinos and provide them with the chance to secure their family's health through cord blood stem cells. With this new facility, Filipino parents no longer have to risk sending their baby's cord blood abroad for long-term storage. The new CordLife facility in the Philippines is built around world-class standards (such as the American Association of Blood Banks and JACI). Our commitments to align with these standards are necessary to support stem cell therapies ethically and responsibly," said Mr. Steven Pang, Group CEO of CordLife Limited.

The official inauguration of the new facility, located at the UP-Ayala Land Technohub in Manila was graced by Ms. Daphne Teo of the Singapore Embassy, Professor Bernie Santiago, Vice-President of Development of the University of the Philippines, Ms. Trinidad Narcisa Bolasa, television personality and Ms. Giselle Sanchez, television and movie actress.

"CordLife's latest cord blood processing and storage facility in the Philippines marks another regional expansion milestone for the company. Focusing on high quality services, CordLife has been investing in various locations to ensure that it provides value-added services to all its customers. DFPRBS will continue to partner CordLife in its journey to enhance opportunities for growth locally and regionally," said Ms. Samantha Ho, Deputy Director of Services & Biomedical and International Partnership Office, DFPRBS Singapore.

CordLife Medical Philippines, Inc. operates 360 sq.m. of space and has the capacity to store more than 20,000 cord blood stem cell units. For more information, please visit www.cordlife.com.ph or call (02) 7169186.

Dementia and the aging Filipino population

THE PHILIPPINE POPULATION is considered to be a young one—with people who are less than 20 years old representing about 70 percent of the total. Its count of people who are 60 years old and above are estimated to make up only about 4.1 percent.

However, with economic growth and the resulting improvement in health delivery and health expenses, the number of people in old age is expected to increase gradually over the years.

During the climactic anniversary and 40th annual convention of the Philippine Medical Women's Association at the Manila Hotel, a symposium was held to discuss dementia, a serious cognitive disorder and a problem faced by a number of people in old age.

Resource speakers at the symposium were Doctors Ivonne Ligsay, chief of the Research Management and Development Division of the Philippine Council for Health Research and Development; Jacqueline Dominguez, head of the Memory Center at St. Luke's Medical Center; and Jose Leo Alcos of the Dementia Society of the Philippines.

Dr. Ligsay pointed out that with the aging Philippine population, cases of dementia will also increase. Unfortunately, many people do not see this as an immediate problem. With the country struggling to keep pace with globalization, Filipinos have been moving away from the traditional extended family. One consequence is that the elderly is getting less attention.

"People with dementia, they live long and you have to take care of them," Dr. Ligsay said.

However, all these reasons per-se cannot justify that the medical societies of the country are capable to properly cope with the incidences of dementia in the elderly members of the population. What was needed was enough focus on certain aspects of the disorder.

Keeping memories sharp

Memory loss is old age is natural, as an elderly person's cells may not be replaced as quickly as that of a younger person, but can be prevented through physical and mental exercises and establishment of habits to train the memory. Basically, to keep their memories sharp, doctors suggest that people of age should try to remain mostly at service as they were in their prime.

Dementia is defined as a serious disorder and results in long-term decline in cognitive functions such as memory, attention, language and problem solving. In later stages of the condition, the affected person may be disoriented to time, place and to persons—meaning they might not be able to tell the time or day, exactly where they are and exactly who they are. It is often irreversible—with less than 10 percent of dementia cases stem from causes that can be reversed with treatment—and the medicines that are now available only slows down the progress of the condition.

Dr. Dominguez suggested in the doctors' process: "It is up to us to learn more about prescribing [these drugs] to our patients."

Dr. Alcos provided an executive list of complementary interventions or proper ways of getting over to patients afflicted with dementia. He stressed that there may be a need for the country's caregivers to become more competent in dealing with dementia as the population numbers rise age.

Dr. Dominguez also said it might also be worthwhile to "diagnose dementia in the early stages before the first symptom happens in the hope that something can be done about it."

New condo allows residents design own space

UNITS in the Verana Verde Residences will be offered in a ready-to-occupy finish configuration to allow future residents to customize their space.

By Charles E. Bahay

INSIDE A RESIDENTIAL DEvelopment that gives future residents the freedom to customize their own space in ways that make the best sense for their respective needs or style preferences.

"This is a pioneering feature that we are introducing to our Robinsons Land products. Instead of having to deal with the extra cost of tearing down and replacing installed materials, they can purchase the space according to their needs, and choose their own preferred finishing materials, the colors that they prefer. Indeed, they can define almost everything that will be inside their unit," explained Christopher Nazareo, RLC vice president for operations and special projects in announcing the Verana Verde Residences.

All units—ranging from 72 to 160 square meters—will be offered in a ready-to-occupy finish configuration to allow future residents to customize their space.

Unit prices start at P5.7 million.

Rising on 31 Bhatia Street, near Valle Verde Country Club in Pasig City, Verana Verde Residences is a mid-rise community wherein the three residential buildings will only offer 89 units.

"We decided to be different with this particular project, instead of researching condos, we opted for a mid-rise for a more intimate, more exclusive approach to modern living," Nazareo described.

Privacy and security

And with few units, he added that RLC would like to provide a gracious sense of private space that will "appeal to the development's target market: forward-leaning individuals and dynamic young families who put a premium on privacy and security even as they look forward to building strong ties with the community."

The whole development will adopt a modern Asian design that could be seen in its building design, as well as in the landscaped gardens, clubhouse for-owners-more sunbathing-and pool.

Because RLC intended the project to cater to the upper mid-market, it considered that most, if not all of their future residents would have at least one car and parking space should be sufficient.

"We made sure there is sufficient parking provision per unit. If you come to think of it, parking is one of the most important features that could close a deal for homebuyers," Nazareo said.

He also added that the development was thoroughly studied so that easy access to modern transport systems and commercial centers is provided for the resident who is always on the go. At the same time the project recognizes the collective desire of its future residents to nurture their families in a beautiful, quiet and serene environment that once was available only in suburban communities," Nazareo said.

Previous Page

Sidewalks, street names . . .

The lighting design of streets and parking lots must first consider illumination criteria, mounting height limitations, lamp preference and esthetic requirements.

The selection of appropriate lighting equipment may be made only after the above considerations and shape of the area and other layout considerations have been evaluated.

There are now several lighting products in the market with installable and environmentally responsible features.

The large majority of our city streets remain with insufficient lighting. Street lights make residents and passersby contribute to the upkeep of the street. They make eyes on the street increase in their range, and this helps to control crime and vandalism.

For comments or inquiries, e-mail **arnoldcbjaen@gmail.com**.

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Experience green living at Manhattan Heights

GREEN PROJECT: With its sky gardens and green rooftops, Manhattan Heights in Manhattan Garden City, Ortigas, Center, in Wigwam's proposed project.

GREEN IS IN. By living at Manhattan Garden City, you won't need to take the car to reach Galleria Mall and other Ortigas Center destinations.

SKY HIGH: All four towers of Manhattan Heights will have a sky garden at the four topmost floors.

At Manhattan Heights,
pamper yourself
with every luxury.

Rise above the city in a studio or suite.

At Manhattan Heights, rise a coveted piece of a new and more vibrant Araneta Center. Step up to a lifestyle that pampers you with every luxury. Enjoy utmost comfort in a cozy executive studio. Or, claim more space in a suite with one or two bedrooms. And have your own private view of the Araneta Center and Manila Bay from large windows and balconies.

Be on top of the world in your very own sky garden.

Bring close to nature your every desire at our new bedroom area at the Sky Garden Floors, at the four topmost levels of your four-tower condominium. And enjoy direct access to a sky garden, a lush setting filled with quiet trees and flowers.

MANHATTAN HEIGHTS
at Manhattan Garden City
Araneta Center

And live on the fast lane with a direct connection to the trains.

Enjoy the luxury of getting around and getting ahead. An exclusive elevated garden walkway leads you straight to the LRT-2 and the MRT-3, letting you reach the rest of the metro quickly and conveniently.

Manhattan Condominium Features:

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Shamelessly addicted to 'Vampire Diaries'

It's got more heart than 'True Blood' and more bite than 'Twilight'

By Wenggie Gallego

MOVE over Edward and Bella. "Vampire Diaries" is one show you'd want to sink your teeth into.

VAMPIRES ARE EVERYWHERE, it seems. They've invaded our pop culture consciousness that Romeo and Prince Charming have been replaced by Vampire Bill, Edward Cullen and, of course, the Salvatore brothers. The bloodsuckers have taken a huge bite out of the world's interest and every book, television show, and movie is raking it in because of it.

The genre has always been

CONTINUED ON C2

SUPER EXCLUSIVE

Torn between two brothers

Super got ahold of these exclusive interviews with the Salvatore brothers, Ian Somerhalder (Damon) and Paul Wesley (Stefan) from SolarTV for a true taste of vampiric hotness

STORY ON PAGE C3

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McDonald's Kiddie Crew Workshop 2010: Summer starts now!

The McDonald's Kiddie Crew Workshop is a yearly summer program specially designed for kids to learn the values of hard work, responsibility, discipline and teamwork under an umbrella of creativity and fun. Each of the 5 week-long days is composed of three main activities a values formation lecture that fosters a different value per day, an hour training, and art workshop.

At the end of the workshop, a series of grand graduation ceremonies will be held in major cities all over the country.

The McDonald's Kiddie Crew Workshop is the first of its kind in the country and is McDonald's way of championing the well-being of kids mind, body and spirit.

Give your child the best summer ever and sign them up for the biggest and most exciting McDonald's Kiddie Crew Workshop yet!

McDonald's Kiddie Crew Workshop
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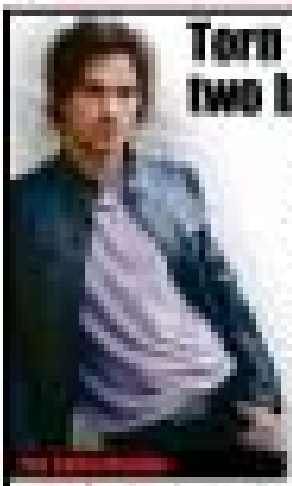

Torn between two brothers

Shamelessly addicted to Vamp

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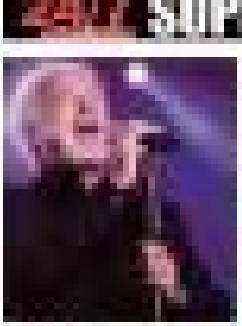

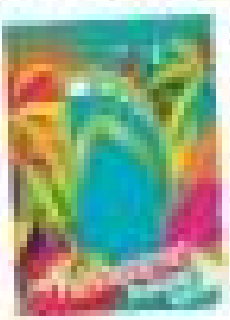

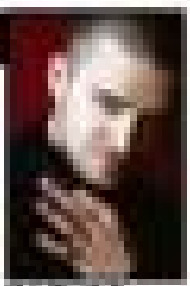

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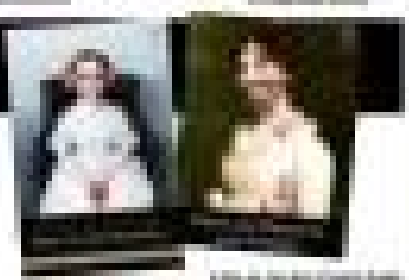

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SUPER LIFESTYLE

SWEAR. EXCLUSIVE

On the phone with Sue Sylvester

Super spoke to 'Glee's' Jane Lynch on the phone. And okay, we admit, we were a little scared

By Paris Pastor

THERE'S A BEEPING SOUND that's driving me nuts," Jane Lynch says on the phone and I swear, my heart practically stops beating.

I suspect that the beeping sound is coming from my phone. But a voice in my head tells me it's impossible. I've done a million phone interviews using the same phone and it's never made that sound before.

Still, I was scared. And you can't blame me. After all, the woman plays Sue Sylvester on Glee. Sue Sylvester, the queen of mean, the icon of political incorrectness, the incredibly competitive head coach of the Cheerios, the hilarious but horrifying nemesis hell-bent on destroying our beloved glee club.

But, as the interview progressed and that blasted beeping stopped, I soon came to realize that Jane Lynch isn't Sue Sylvester. I braved a huge sigh of relief (and OK, fine, I was a little disappointed too—because Sue was bound to leave me with some killer quotes) and finally mustered enough courage to ask about what I really wanted to talk about—how she plays the villain every one loves but loves, Glee's Madonna episode, Will Phillip Harris and Molly Shannon's guest appearances and the craziness that will be up in the cute episodes of Glee.

The role of Sue Sylvester was written for you. How old were you first?

Oh well, it was a great feeling. You know, I auditioned and have been auditioning for many years. I have been in the business. So to have somebody write something for me was awesome and that I actually get to do it and that it's actually a terrific character and really funny and over the top. Yeah, it made me feel really good.

And when you started working with it, how did you approach it?

Well, I didn't. I mean, it was so well written and it was such a great match of what I like to do and [writer's name]. I believe. And for Brennan is the guy who came up with this Sue Sylvester character. We know, the first thing he said in the script about Sue Sylvester is that she may or may not be in her forties and she may or may not pound the Beethoven. So that kind of gave me a whole idea of who this woman might be that she'll do anything for power.

When you got the first script, how was your character described?

It said she mayor may not have posed for Penthouse and she may or may not have been on heroin estrogen. And it told me all I needed to know.

Do you see yourself in Sue Sylvester at all? Do you think you are similar to her in any way?

Oh yes. Yeah, I don't think I would do it if I didn't have her in me somewhere. And yes, and it's kind of the person that's coming out right now who is so upset with that damn bleep. Daughter? It's absolutely in me. It's not too far from the surface but because I want people to like me, I don't lead with it.

Sue has a lot of killer lines—what's your favorite?

ON THE PHONE D4

A place of living you truly desire and want to stay endlessly

By Abigail T. Gamez

It is the place of living that you really desire. It is a home that exudes a certain charm, appeal, and more. It is the community that makes love reality the lifestyle you envision to enjoy with your family for the rest of your life.

Metrogate Communities and Heritage Subdivision, communities that are established and continually being built by Moldex Realty over the past 22 years, have already made an impact on Filipino lives and the real estate industry in general by providing communities that elevate living standards and promote the good happy life.

Living in a Moldex established community, according to Abbot Tejano, Senior Executive Vice President at Moldex Realty Marketing Inc., is the embodiment of a fulfillment of one's goal to achieve a certain living standard, but attaining it at a cost worth the buyer's investment.

"We're not only selling houses, but we're selling real homes that buyers and their families can live in happily and take pride of as well," says Tejano. "It's really providing certain Chedmoney's worth should they decide to live in a Moldex community."

Tejano refers to the kind of "lifestyle" residents at established Moldex communities are already enjoying.

For example, Metrogate Commonwealth, which cater to the middle income market, not only offer quality and even grand homes, but feature luxury on the side-like unlimited recreation and relaxation facilities.

Some successful Metrogate Communities even feature themes such as a "Spanish" theme, a "Mediterranean" theme, an "Italian" theme, or an "Asian" theme, according to Tejano.

The themes that define these communities not only distinguish one real estate project from another, but in fact put "pesks" into the community said Tejano.

"Metrogate in Sta. Maria features a tropical theme. As everywhere you go, you'd notice spring flowers that truly make the community a beautiful place to live in. Then we have an upcoming Asian themed development in Tagaytay, the Metrogate Crimson Tagaytay. This community is envisioned for people who want to have second home or

▶ PLACE OF LIVING D3

Metrogate Gloog Estates' clubhouse in Cavite offering unlimited recreation options.

MOISES T. Tejano, Senior Executive Vice President, Moldex Realty Marketing, Inc.

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March 27 - Metrogate Tagaytay Manors and Metrogate Tagaytay Estates
March 28 - Metrogate Trece Martires

INVESTORS' DAY
March 27 - Villa Caceres Sta. Rosa, Angeles at Sta Rosa, and Metrogate Pinnacrest

Metrogate Communities
Bulacan: Metrogate Spring Meadows • Metrogate Meycauayan II
Metrogate North Villas • Metrogate San Jose
Laguna: Metrogate Pinnacrest • Angeles at Sta Rosa • Metrogate Sta. Rosa
Villa Caceres Sta. Rosa
Pampanga: Metrogate Angeles
Cavite: Metrogate Trece Martires • Metrogate Dasmariñas • Metrogate Indang
Metrogate Gloog Estates • Metrogate Dasmariñas Estates
Tagaytay: Metrogate Tagaytay Estates • Metrogate Tagaytay Heights
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WINNERS in the recently concluded sales rally receive their awards of medallion, cash prizes and gifts. From left, Aldino T. Tejano, SEVP, MPMI; Imelda T. Uy, MGOC director; Maxima dela Paz- AVP, Garnet Group; Doris Bongat, sales division head of Pisces Group; Representative of Josie Caguit of Golden Pony Realty; Eduardo Agco, branch manager of Dragon Estates; Jesselyn Quintana, unit manager, Dragon Estates; Jose Bongat, sales director, Pisces Group; Jose Mari Bongat, sales executive, Pisces Group; Rey Ignacio M. Diaz- Moldex Realty Inc. President.

A place of living you truly desire and want to stay endlessly

From page B3

a vacation house in a place where the weather is good including the surrounding which is lush with greens and all kinds of foliage."

"Another example at Metrogate Silang Estates in Cavite. It is a jungle-themed community where the picnic pools and the surrounding areas look like it's been covered out of the jungles in Africa. The community is really ideal for big families with kids, who will really enjoy the facilities."

Successful Metrogate Communities that already made a mark also include the Metrogate Angeles, which is a community situated in the thriving Angeles City in Pampanga. It takes on the "Spanish" theme and thus reflects the colorful and vibrant lifestyle of contemporary Spain.

With the establishment of the "Metrogate" brand to refer to the gated communities of Moldex, the real estate company that champions the upgrading of its subdivision to new standards is also focusing its attention to projects that cater to the lowers income market.

It established the Heritage Residences that offer affordability but quality as well. Moldex describes these communities as the type that offers "the perfect balance of nature and modern-day conveniences."

"Moldex is looking at a wide range of market to cater to. The company really wants to address the needs of the Filipino living in different income levels," says Tejano. "We really want to provide a home to everyone."

Currently there are five Heritage Residences projects: Heritage Homes Meycauayan and Heritage Villas in San Jose Bulacan; Heritage Homes Imalang, Heritage Homes Trece Martires and Heritage Spring Homes in Sta. Rosa Laguna.

Tejano says these homes already feature 30 sqm lofted new houses and are available through Pag-IBIG -assisted housing loan for as low as P5,200 a month.

He adds that since the Heritage Residences are Moldex made developments, the buyers are assured of quality. The lofted core houses are carefully conceptualized to respond to the unique residential needs of the typical averaged sized Filipino family. "Owning a true home developed by Moldex gives you the best value for your hard earned money," says Tejano.

Tejano says the success of Metrogate Communities and Heritage Residences lie not only in the combination of many factors, apart from the themes and abundant amenities and extra luxury, these communities are strategically located and very near schools, churches, services, malls malls, etc. In short, they're all accessible and truly spell convenience in the residents.

"I believe Moldex has offered the residents their money's worth. Why do I say that? It's because we have buyers who buy more than one Moldex house. I think they're happy with the purchase, which is why they keep on coming back."

"All the communities on hold is meant to solidify our aim to provide the Filipinos their well deserved life," according to Rey Diaz, President of Moldex Realty Inc.

MRI gives premium to Filipino handiwork, "and we honor it by giving them excellent commercials where they can invest their hard-earned money" said Diaz.

Moldex Realty is a result of the diversification of the JY family from the manufacturers of various types of plastic pipes and fittings into real estate development. The projects are located in prime areas of Luzon: in Bulacan, Pampanga, Laguna, Tagaytay and other parts of Cavite.

For more information log on to www.moldex.com.ph/realty or call 373-7391 for north and 536-00-87 for south projects.

Upcoming Events and Activities

METROGATE COMMUNITIES

March 27

Open House - Metrogate Tagaytay Manors and Metrogate Tagaytay Estates
Venue: Metrogate Tagaytay Manors
Time: 9am - 3pm
Contact Number: 09178553470

Investors' Day - Villa Caceres Sta. Rosa, Alegria at Dos Rios, Metrogate Pinoyworld
Venue: Max's Restaurant Biñan, Laguna
Time: 11am - 3pm
Contact Number: 09178553470

March 28

Open House - Metrogate Trece Martires
Venue: Metrogate Trece Martires Clubhouse
Time: 9am - 4pm
Contact Number: 09178553483

HERITAGE RESIDENCES

March 27

Investors' Day - Heritage Spring Homes
Venue: Max's Restaurant Biñan, Laguna
Time: 11am - 4pm
Contact Number: 09178553490

March 28

Open House - Heritage Homes Trece Martires
Venue: Metrogate Trece Martires Clubhouse
Time: 9am - 4pm
Contact Number: 09178553483

Your home. Your legacy.
Heritage Residences

MOLDEX REALTY, INC.

INVESTORS' DAY
March 27 - Heritage Spring Homes

OPEN HOUSE
March 28 - Heritage Homes Trece Martires

Let your family feel the warmth and happiness of living in a community where everything is beautiful.

With Heritage Residences, have the fulfillment of your dream home and the security of your legacy to last more than a lifetime.

Heritage Residences
Bulacan: Heritage Homes Meycauayan • Heritage Villas San Jose
Cavite: Heritage Homes Trece Martires • Heritage Spring Homes

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On the phone with Sue Sylvester

From page D1

One of my favorite lines that I say to Kurt, the guy kid, is loving musicals the new doesn't make you gay. It just makes you awful. (Laughter) It's hilarious. I think the writing is hilarious.

Has the teachers' lounge come a style icon in America? Do you think that's going to happen?

I don't. Well I'll tell you what though, I am going to moreno for a non-figure to be in Madonna 'Smooch. So I guess that answers your question. And I'll be in the tracksuit.

What color?

Red. Red and white for McKinley High.

How do you feel about "Glee" being accepted worldwide?

The acceptance worldwide has been amazing. Australia—Glee! could not wait to get it on Saturday and we had all the interviewed press. It's so gratifying. I had a feeling when we were doing the pilot and I saw how talented these kids were, I had a feeling that if we could find an audience it would be a big hit. So I had a feeling.

Do you weren't surprised that the show was a big hit?

No, on the one level you never expect this stuff, but I know it was a very special show, especially as we started getting hits the first twelve. If there was an audience for this, and I had a feeling there was, I knew it would be a pretty big hit.

Why do you think the show is such a hit?

Well, I think what makes it such a hit is that these kids are, you know, they are not important in the school, they're not popular, in fact they are maligned for what they want to do which is raise their voice to sing. They have to endure having slushies thrown in their faces and being made fun of and having their cheer coats being toilet papered but they do it anyway and I think people identify with that underdog in them and then there's nothing better than really talented kids singing and dancing and being joyful about it and every expressing their deepest fears and everything. I think that's why America loves theater and I think that's why it works so well.

What are things like on the set? How are the other members of the cast?

Oh it's very happy. Everybody runs before we become a hit show, it's a really great crew. Ryan Ian worked with these people forever since "Popular" and through "Nip/Tuck." And the cast is, you know, it's basically those young kids, for a lot of them, it's their first job and they're really happy to be there. And we're so busy, especially the kids, not me so much, we're busy with the singing and the choreography and the rehearsing and the recording and then the actual filming that they're really don't have any time to fool jokes so they really get their butt on the ground.

What else do you think it is about being on this particular series that keeps the young talent so grounded?

They are grounded and I think the reason is because of what's expected of them. They have to be singing and dancing and recording and they have to be always learning. And their backs are up against the wall the entire time. There's never a moment

JAMI Lynch on playing Sue: "I don't think I could do it if I didn't have her voice memorized."

to time to throw a hissy fit where I have all the time in the world. (Laughter) I think what's demanded of them is so great and so intense they have to stay grounded.

So overall, where is the second half headed?

We're working towards regionals now and at the same time the cheerleaders are going for nationals. So there's lots of intense competitions going on and a lot of intense preparation. And Sue is doing her best to destroy them so that all the money you know the lawsuits, all money will go to her and her Cheerios.

Will we see more of your characters in the second half of the season?

Yes we've done for episodes so far and I'm never in every scene but I probably have a little more presence than I did in the first twelve.

What other things does Sue have in store for the rest of the season?

Oh, she is always trying to break up the Glee club and she is still pretending to that she engages in sexual blackmail. She got Finn to still be in love with a kid from another group and tries to break her heart in order to render her incapable of performing. Yeah, she'll do whatever it takes. That's just in like the first two episodes.

One of my favorite scenes from the previous episodes was the moment where we saw that softer side of your character with your sister. Are we going to revisit that aspect of her? Do you like that side of her?

Oh I do. But that side of her because we get to understand where she's coming from and why she's so famous. She's been protecting this very vulnerable, loving, down syndrome sister. And we do have Artie, it's the second scene, and she's back, and she's back at least for one episode and we just did a scene a couple of weeks ago. It was really fun and she's a great girl. Her mom's wonderful and we love having her on set.

Have you the Madonnas episodes for you? Are you a fan of Madonna? Is it true you're going to sing in that episode?

I do "Vogue," not only do we sing "Vogue," I sing "Vogue," but I did a "Vogue" video with some incredible dancers, and with Kim and Mercedes. And the concept of how we got into this video is that they are trying to give me a makeover that I'm actually allowing them to do. So I do that and I know where are you for wings. The Madonna episode is one of the most ambitious hours of television I think I've ever attempted. I was just speaking to Ryan, Ryan Murphy directed that episode and he is obsessed with Madonna. He just knows from his worships but at her best. And he's so thrilled, and he's a hard guy to please, and he's so thrilled with how it's turned out.

There's been so many speculations about people coming on board. Is it true you will be making out with Neil Patrick Harris in a future episode?

I won't be making out with him, I haven't worked with him yet. But maybe I will grab him and make out with him, I'm not sure but it's not in the scene. But we are going to want to see us demanding by the end of the season and you'll have to see the show to see what I mean by that.

Can you tell us about **Molly Shannon's** guest appearance on the show?

She's playing this dim witted, friends Carole who's a teacher who gets fired from her last job because she was unequally inappropriate with a student so of course we have her. (Laughter) She is an alcoholic who gets up in my grill like no one else, and really pushes Sue back on her heels. She's the only person that says no to Sue that way.

Of all the people you have worked with, who was the most fun?

Stephen Tobolowsky on Glee, he plays the ex-Glee teacher. I don't remember his character's name. He is hilarious and I have fucking eyes with him and also when I did Patty Chenoi, I loved everybody on that cast. We had a really good ensemble.

Is it because they're funny? Is that what you go for?

Well, you know what it is, it's not just funny. It's just how much they're team players and how willing they are to be apart of a group. And then if you have that chemistry where you have the same sense of humor and you make each other laugh, that's golden.

Who's your dream "Glee" guest star?

I would love to see Tina Daly I think she's so wonderful and she's such a great performance I'd love to see her do something with us. She would be my dream and member.

Is there a song you'd like to sing on "Glee?"

Let me see. You know what? I just have to go to them because they just give me the greatest things in the world to do. I'm doing "Physical" with Olivia Newton John and the Madonna song "Vogue." I just stopped desiring things. I just said, you know what they give me.

How do nominations and awards affect your work?

Oh it doesn't affect my work at all but, hey, it's a nice feeling. It's lovely. I've been doing this a long time. It's really thrilling to have this kind of recognition because I've been doing this a long time, and you kind of do it your own, people aren't shaking your hand or giving you an award for it. So it's here lovely to have the awards and the accolades. It's been great.

If you were in the right age group would you have been a cheerleader or in the glee club?

I would have been in glee club. In fact my didn't have glee club in my high school but I was in choir for four years. I would have no hesitance being a cheerleader. (Laughter)

Have you ever had a teacher like Sue?

Yes, I did actually. I had a teacher in college who was an acting teacher and we called her the dragon lady. Like performed number one drama and humiliation. As she walked down the hall, she always wore like really dramatic outfits, people would literally just like the red sea as her through. You wanted her to pay attention to you, and yet you were afraid if she did because you didn't want to be the recipient of her wrath. I didn't realize this until after I left

page started asking questions but I think I am drawing from what I know about her.

Why do you think playing such a vicious character has struck a chord all over the world?

I think that she's so extremely mean to the point of being laughable. Where I think the dangers of Sue Sylvester really isn't the thing that makes people like her, I think it's just that she's so over the top that she's not dangerous.

Are you really more into comedy? Why do you keep getting funny roles?

That's a good question. I do, I love comedy. Making makes me happier than flipping out a funny sweater and how to make it even funnier. That does thrill me so much. Every once and a while I will do something dramatic, and I love that too but hey there is nothing better than diving in to the psychology of someone and coming up with those crazy little things that people do, that we're maybe not aware of and then we bring them out and the audience laughs at it. They think they're laughing at the character but what they're really doing is laughing at the stuff that's within themselves.

Aside from "Glee," what else are you planning to do this year?

I'm just doing Glee. We have two months off between this back time and then starting the second season so I'm basically just going to be anything my breath.

Glee airs every Wednesday at 8:30 p.m. on Jack TV and every Sunday at 10 p.m. on ETC. Watch out for all new episodes of Glee starting April 14 via satellite. Wednesday at 8 p.m. on Jack TV and Sunday at 10 p.m. on ETC. Or stream it live at 8 p.m. on Jack TV and 10 p.m. on ETC.

Ready, set, 'Glee'!

ETC and JackTV give you the chance to win a trip to the set of 'Glee' and walk-on appearance in the show's second season

Glee Off to Hollywood

What: ETC and JackTV are looking for the country's biggest Gleek!

What you need: a passport and US visa (that's valid until December 2010).

How to win: Are you 16 or older? Prove you're "Glee"'s biggest fan by sending a video, a letter or photo. The top 20 finalists will be invited to the finals party on April 14 at Greg Club in Eastwood City where the winner will be announced. Visit www.jackv.com.ph or www.etc.com.ph and submit your entry online. You can also send your entries to 7/F Bank Boiler Century Tower 1 BC Bonifacio St. Cor. 11 Dela Costa St. Salcedo Village, Makati 1227, or thru fax at (632) 8132394.

Deadline: Monday, April 5

The prize: A trip for two to Los Angeles, California where you will be given a tour of the 10 days in Los Angeles, visit the set of Glee and participate in the show's second season as an extra! ETC and JackTV will also give you US$1,000!

The Great Glee Sing-off

What: The Great Glee Sing-off is open to any school in Metro Manila represented by an eight to 12 member show choir. Members must be 12 to 17 years old.

How to win: Join the first-ever school (current) school choirs must go to www.jackv.com.ph or www.etc.com.ph and upload a video of their singing "Proud Mary" (from the Glee Album). Organizers will pick 20 groups for a callback. The 20 groups chosen will participate in the first-ever Glee Sing-off. The 20 groups will be divided into two semi-finals where they will sing any of the following songs from the Glee Album: Mix it's Knockin' but You're Chances, Wise Guys or Defying Gravity. Two semi-finalists will then be chosen to join the top finals.

The semi-finalists will be asked to perform a mashup in front of a live audience. The Mashup must include the following: Don't Stop Believin' (from the Glee Album) plus one song from 10 predetermined Sing Along Hits. This round will produce five finalists who will compete for the nationals.

In the finals, each group will perform the following—a ballad (which will be chosen from 10 predetermined Sing Along Hits) and one of the following songs from the Glee Album: Somebody To Love, Jump, Lean On Me, My Life Would Suck Without You and Imagine.

The prizes: The group that wins first place will get P50,000, the second place winner will get P30,000, the third place winner gets P20,000. The third place winner gets P20,000 while the group that place fourth and fifth will get P10,000 each. The group with most votes and e-mail votes will win P20,000. A special award will also be given out.

Super LIFESTYLE

A brand new JoJo

Remember her? Returning with two music heavyweights, JoJo reveals to Super what she's been up to all this time

By Joel-Angelo Q. Tagaro

"I HAD NO IDEA THERE WAS GOING TO be media!" gasps 19-year R&B singer-actress Joanna Levesque, a.k.a. JoJo as she entered an invited Philippine Blanc's Spirit buffet. Her blue eyes widen with surprise, like some ex-star of the seguendores and says, "You should have told me. I would have worn makeup! Oh well."

It's been four years since the mainstream public last heard from JoJo, with her 2006 song Too Little Too Late, and any recent impressions were left by her brief stint on the big screen. Ask anyone on the street who JoJo is, they'd probably rack their head and say "Wasn't she in that mermaid movie?" or "Ano ba yung kanyong ng All My Life?"

The singer, who starred opposite Robin Williams in the 2006 comedy RV, shares, "I was away from the scene focusing on other things." Truth is, JoJo, who broke out in 2004 at a 13-year old, didn't disappear from music. She was admirably focusing on her studies, graduating from high school with honors and is now confirmed to attend Northern University to the tunes of Massachusetts—a highly competitive school, one might add. Now she's back, appearing in two songs on Timbaland's album Shock Value II and working on her third studio album All I Have Is Everything.

JoJo is one-third of the American teen-cultcore playing tonight at the SM Mall of Asia. Comprised of herself, pop idol Justin Timberlake and mega-producer Timbaland, they're performing at the Changing

» MAGIC 89

Win tickets to see Justin, Timbaland and JoJo!

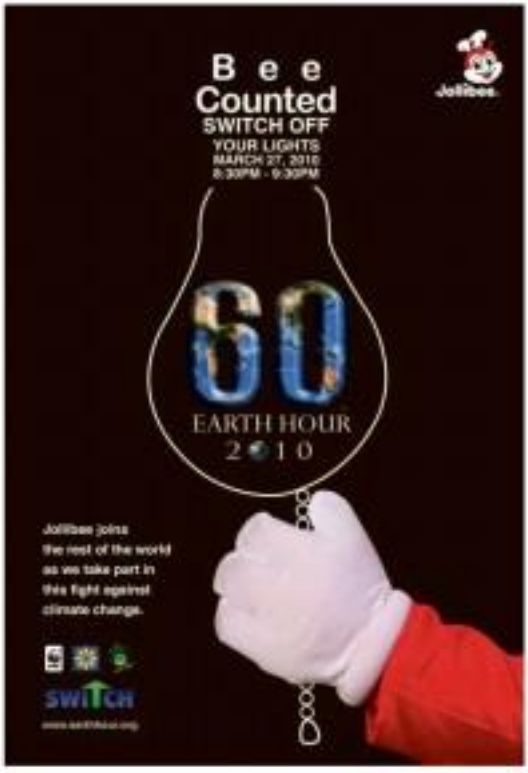
CHANGING LIVES: SHOOE VALUE E YOUR IS happening tonight!

We can't promise there will be any tech but you can still try to get your hands on tickets and watch Justin Timberlake, Timbaland and JoJo—onstage at the SM Mall of Asia Concert by heading to TicketWorld outlets, calling 891-9999 or visiting www.ticketworld.com.ph. Ticket prices range from P500 (Bronze) to P4,500 (VIP).

The best part? Each ticket is equivalent to a PLDT Smart Foundation donation. The foundation is supporting victims of the series of typhoons last year.

Super, SOLEUP and All Vivah Channels Inc. also want to give you the chance to win tickets to the concert.

Winning is easy. All you have to do is e-mail us why you deserve to go to the concert. You can tell us or show us, be as creative as you want. E-mail your entries to fwinnanne@inkdigital.com. Don't forget your name, age and contact number. Each winner will get two gold tickets.



Manila, are you ready?

Justin Timberlake on keyboards, tracks mixed just for Manila and other things to expect at tonight's show

mh. SEXYBACK—front of the pack and mobbed by media

SUPER SPOKE TO LYKEWYS BIG BOSS Francis Lorenzo about tonight's concert. "Contrary to rumors, Justin Timberlake will be singing a minimum of eight songs. But I think he might sing more—he even asked for a keyboard."

Like everyone else, Francis is looking forward to seeing the SM Mall of Asia grounds tonight. "It's a pleasure to see you're over this (rain-ering)."

Promoter has no doubts fans of JT, Timbaland and JoJo will have an awesome time at the concert. "They even mixed new tracks in LA for this show. This is really going to be a special."

SUSPM, Smart Buddy and Smart Bro are behind the Changing Lives concert. Proceeds of the show will go to the PLDT Smart Foundation.

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A brand new JoJo

from page E1

Love Benefit Concert, an endeavor by the 4EWealth Channel (AM12, UHF39), Island Bro, Smart Buddy and the DLSU Smart Foundation to raise funds for victims of last year's successive typhoons.

JoJo is thrilled to perform in Manila for the first time in her life. "I'm excited to feel the energy of this beautiful country, which I've already got the chance to see a little bit of," she beams in a recorded e-mail interview. Aside from concert, she'll also be visiting media personalities KC Montero and Vicky Herrera. With her recent going to the music scene, fans have also yet to find the image of being that girl from the movies Aquamarine and BV!

"I'm not just that girl from Aquamarine or BV," JoJo asserts. "I'm working on my third album so I'm really excited about that, and working with Timbaland on his album and mine has been a great way to seamlessly reintroduce myself. I feel amazing but I've come into who I want to be as an artist. I'm not just a little girl who doesn't write songs. I'm really growing to be myself."

Her manager Gida Williams adds, "JoJo made a conscious decision with her mother to focus on school. She started in the music business when she was 12. She had two very successful albums and she wanted to take time to finish high school. It was a career decision to put school first. Period."

JoJo's mother, Shana Levesque, is a guiding presence throughout the singer's career. But only was she her first training act, JoJo credits her with keeping her so steady as the fame and accolades poured in. "Mom always handled with me until I turned 18. She made sure I got nine hours of sleep every night, she made sure my school work was done. I credit her for why I'm not all the drop and." A reason for why she has an image largely clean of intrigue is that she still lives in her home state, instead of the glitzy, but gated hills of Los Angeles. "It's a different scene. Living in Massachusetts now! I was 16 was a good thing because I'm not above temptation."

Reiterating from the academic schedule her her dining back into music. Seeking her up on her third album are Timbaland, The Neptunes, and The Neptunes, artists who JoJo calls "wonderful people." Of her academic days, she shares "I was focused on school, making sure I got good grades and was able to get into colleges. It was a very stressful time. Now that I can focus more on my first passion, it feels really good." JoJo is debuting Owen school this year, but next year she's definitely starting college. Her desired degree? "Undecided anthropology I met with the head of Sociology in my university and it's so fascinating."

I notice the word "track" tattooed on the side of her right hand, so I ask her what "track" is for her. "Oh, because of my tattoos?" she smiles, and gestures an embrace. "I want to be surrounded by truth. I want to represent what is true. In a spiritual sense, it talks about my faith," she then laughs. "It's vague but it's meant to be a variety of things." I ask Jo Jo, whose mothers sang in Church choirs, if faith plays a major role in her music and dealing with people. "Faith as in music, yeah," she giggles. "Music is open road."

BACK FROM SCHOOL.—"Now that I can focus more on my first passion it feels really good." PHOTOS BY NIKKI LEMMEX

"I MIGHT HAVE WORN MAKE UP!" —That so, you look fine.

Ruffa's Revelations with Nokia's Ovi Maps.

During your given concealment maps, Nokia's Ovi Maps is a free map and navigation service that will serve as your one-stop guide through the urban landscape, and as if being your navigation device wasn't enough, Ovi Maps can also—introducing location sharing and revolutionizing our means of keeping contact forever.

From the fast-paced corporate world of your weekday office to the white sands beaches of your favorite summer getaway, Ovi Maps lets you share the moment with the people in your life—down to the street address—through the status messages you send or the pictures you upload to Facebook.

As an always on-the-go superstar tonight more, the perennially busy Ruffa Gutierrez is exactly the kind of person Ovi Maps was made for. When she's not working in the studio, she's out on errands. When she's not working, she's spending quality time with her kids. "I feel that there's so much to do and so little time," Ruffa says. "I think it's just trying to maximize the talents that God has given you," she explains.

"Nothing should get in the way of your relationship with the people who matter to you, especially not geographic distance, with Nokia's Ovi Maps."

But even superwomen deserve to unwind every now and then. For Ruffa, that comes in the form of baggage and a plane ticket. "I love to travel," she shares. "I enjoy experiencing culture and visiting new places."

This makes her the ideal user of Nokia's Ovi Maps. With Ovi Maps' Location Sharing feature, she's only bound to have an even better connection with the people who matter to her the most.

"I'm going to Sydney in a few weeks," she says. "My friend is getting married. I'm so excited to know the best places there, like where I can go shopping."

Ovi Maps makes it easy for women like Ruffa all the fun to do is follow the four steps to the new stylish way of sharing:

1. **Add the Share Location Widget on your Home Screen.** With the Share Location widget on your device home screen, you can quickly add your location.

2. **Update your location.** Ovi Maps updates your location using GPS. This allows you to share the most current address of your latest exotic discovery or hole in the nightspot. Just choose Share Location/Places.

3. **Post your status.** Tell the world about the killer heels you just bought or the beautiful architecture you just saw.

4. **Attach a photo.** They say a picture paints a thousand words. When you're bound by the limitations of status messages, a photo can finish off the job for those words you can't get. You can choose between taking a new picture or choosing one from your photo gallery.

You've put yourself with your friends where you are and what you're doing! Check out your Facebook profile and your friends' comments now.

For Ruffa Gutierrez, nothing should get in the way of your relationship with the people who matter to you, especially not geographic distance with Ovi Maps' new technology. "I'm very excited about it," she says. "I think it's really cool."

To download Ovi Maps to your Nokia device, go to www.nokia.com.ph/ovimaps

2bU LIFESTYLE

Editor Thelma Simon San Juan Contributing Editor Stefanie Calsi

Graduation frocks

Kiss school goodbye in perfect grad ball dresses made by fashion students

By Rosanna Arenas
Contributor

WHILE MARCH IS start of summer, it also means graduation for others. Nothing beats the feeling of kissing school goodbye! In between getting ready for the big day and trashing away your papers and books, finding the perfect graduation ball dress isn't easy.

2bU did the legwork for you. Thanks to your graduation reps and school students for these fashion student-designed creations.

Paula Llave with her muse, Anne Sotaco

"I've always loved fashion and creating things so I thought, why not take up a course that allows you to do so? So here I am studying fashion and having the time of my life," she says.

Paula Llave is a fashion design and marketing student at the School of Fashion and the Arts. This 19-year-old considers herself an avant-garde designer who designs unique yet wearable clothing with extraordinary patterns.

She favors structured and unobtrusive details. Her design here, with geometric patterns, is made entirely of Gazar silk fabric, inspired by the Japanese armored suit.

She incorporates the idea in the garment by adding oversized detailing that showcases not only its origin of inspiration but the dominant form as well.

This dress may not be the typical graduation ball gown. Paula explains, "The kind of girl I see wearing this is a fashionista who follows her own symphony and doesn't necessarily follow trends."

Who are your fashion inspirations?

Audrey Hepburn, Daphne Guinness, The Olsen twins, Katie Gallagher, and bloggers such as Cecilia Yap Screen of chewoscope.com, Camille of childhood-fantasy.blogspot.com and Susie of lilyfindsbirdie.co.uk.

Describe your personal style.

Very dolce. I go for minimal and sweet.

What are your plans after graduation? What career do you plan to pursue?

I plan to study in Europe or in Japan, a short course maybe to pursue making and photography and eventually start my own label, locally.

What did you wear to your own graduation ball?

A black cocktail dress.

If you had to create a grad ball for yourself, what would it be like?

Something very elegant, yet structured. I would also like to wear my own designs to my grad ball.

Your favorite designers?

Internationally, Rei Kawakubo, the late Alexander McQueen, Junya Watanabe, Yohji Yamamoto, Gareth Pugh, Viktor & Rolf designers, Karl Lagerfeld, Rick Owens, Issey Miyake, Alexandre Wang, Hedvig Ackermann and Umi Ima. Locally, Inoy Bonagua, Jojo Uberos, Jeremie Isaacs, Joey Samson, Ivan Iraki Aurora, John Moreno and Louie Cha pareda.

What's your fashion philosophy?

Dress for success. Do your work.

Tin Umali and her muse, Fatima Poblador

A creative genius who's into visual arts and product development, Tin Umali decided to take up fashion design and merchandising at College of Saint Benilde. "I always wanted to create and wear clothes that would appeal to everyone," she explains.

Known for fitted silhouettes and playful take on structures, she says, "I like my pieces to look cool yet classic, avant-garde yet wearable."

For graduation ball, she wanted to design a dress for a girl who wants to take a risk. "A woman who is not afraid of wearing something from tomorrow," she adds.

Her creation inspired by the black lily is a black leather mini fully covered with flower appliqués and feathers. It typifies her design statements—lush, edgy and ultra-eccentric.

Who are your fashion inspirations?

Kate Moss because I love her "rock star" attitude. Jean Paul Gaultier is my top favorite designer.

Describe your personal style.

Laidback with a rock star kick. Black must be part of the whole ensemble.

What are your plans after graduation? What career do you plan to pursue?

I would love to be part of a fashion house production or be an intern for a top designer and to be able to launch my career in fashion. If given the chance, I'd be thrilled to study either art related courses.

What did you wear to your graduation ball?

In high school, my graduation ball was very informal. But I took inspiration from Tokyo fashion.

If you had to create a grad ball dress for yourself, what would it be like?

It would be a short black lace dress with emphasized, embellished shoulders and ruched sleeves.

Who are your favorite designers?

Jean-Paul Gaultier and Alexander McQueen

What's your fashion motto or philosophy?

"I don't design clothes. I design dreams"—Ralph Lauren.

Gabbie Saroza with her muse, Angelino Guiao

Coming from a family of doctors, Gabbie Saroza is often asked why she didn't pursue medical school. "Ever since I was in grade school, I was torn between that and my childhood career thinking I was my destiny," she says.

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Where to Stop Where to Go

Eggs-Citing Easter at Century Park Hotel

THIS LENTEN SEASON, TAKE some days off for fun and relaxation with Century Park Hotel's special room package.

For only P 3,750 per night in a classic superior room (minimum stay 2 nights or 2 rooms per day), enjoy a hearty buffet breakfast for four (2 adults and 2 children 12 and below) at the Café in the Park plus hotel amenities like the complimentary soft-drinks and bottled water replenished daily, a 10-percent discount at the Café in the Park or Century Teddy Japanese Restaurant including on Easter Sunday. The first 10 paid bookings will receive 2 tickets each to Manila Ocean Park. The promo is valid from March 20 to April 5.

This Easter, delight the whole family in the Eggs-citing Easter Party! The only P599 per person for both adults and children, grab the chance to win fabulous prizes like a 2-night stay gift certificate at the Regent Country Club and pool tokens to the best Easter entertainers in town. The fun starts at 11 a.m. until 2 p.m. at the Atrium Lounge. Have a Sunday party filled with games, activities, entertainment and giveaways. So hop on over to the Century Park Hotel.

For inquiries and reservations, call 525-4888.

Champagne Brunch at Marriott Hotel

SUNDAYS HAVE ALWAYS BEEN SET ASIDE AS A DAY OF relaxation and to spend time with loved ones. This is why Marriott Hotel Manila is pushing ahead with its Sunday Champagne Brunch at Marriott Cafe, a day where good delectable food, time-flowing champagne, sparkling wines, and fun-filled activities. Every Sunday from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., Marriott Cafe will feature a smorgasbord of international cuisine. Afterwards, indulge in sinful desserts, and more! For P2,099++/adult, savor the Champagne Brunch, with free-flowing Moet Chandon and a selection of equally-quenching wines + bonus: can choose the brunch with unlimited viands, or viands, coffee, and tea for only P1500++/adult. Children below 12 get in for P625++/child, while children below 4 get in for free. The children's corner at the hotel lobby features kids' activities. Marriott Café is at the ground floor of Marriott Hotel Manila, just across Naia Terminal 3. For reservations, call 988-9999 or log on to www.marriott.com/mnlmb.

The Malayan Plaza's Holy Week Special

THE PERFECT SPOT ON THIS LENTEN SEASON IS TO STAY in the city. After all, Metro Manila is practically vacated when city folk flock to provinces to enjoy sun and sea while fasting mostly. And when in Ortigas, the perfect hideaway would be staying at The Malayan Plaza Hotel starting this holy week. The Lenten offering at The Malayan Plaza from March 20 to April 17 presents packages for a Starlite Suite for room at P7,500 net, One bedroome Deluxe at P3,000 net. These package rates include buffet breakfast for two persons, in-house coffee and tea-making facilities, use of facilities like gym and swimming pool, complimentary last find water and late check out until 2 p.m. subject to room availability. Managed by Quantum Hotels and Resorts, The Malayan Plaza, located at EDSA Mandaluyong corner Ortigas Road in Ortigas Center, Pasig City, offers furnished studio, one-bedroom and two-bedroom units that easily combine aesthetic values, comfort and functionality. For bookings, call The Malayan Plaza reservation office at 706-8555, fax 635-3900, e-mail malayansales@quantumsuites.com or log on to www.themalayanplazahotel.com.ph.

Lenten happenings at Club Balai Isabel

FOR MANY FILIPINOS, HOLY WEEK IS A TIME TO RE-flection and meditation. There, after the colorful retreat, it's also a common practice to engage in some form of rest and relaxation. But every year, the question remains: Where shall we go? What else is happening during the Holy Week? This year, Club Balai Isabel provides the answer. On any day from March 29 to April 6, take a day-of-rest pool fit Holy Week Day Tour for only P1,300 net per person which includes use of the swimming pool and other recreation facilities, snack and lunch at Terrace Cafe. You may also opt to take part in its numerous Holy Week activities like drawing and sketching lessons, clay play and origami art for kids to enjoy, water sports activities like kayaking, pedal boat, banana boat or jet ski, spiritual activities in the chapel, adventure games like treasure hunt, blind puzzle, orienteering and mountain mystery game. On April 4, Easter Egg Hunting is not to be missed as it has lined up surprises for everyone. Club Balai Isabel, partner hotel of Quantum Hotels and Resorts, rests on the shores of the famous Taal Lake, a short 15-minute hop from the Tagaytay ridge. For more information, call the Manila sales and reservations office at 897-2229, 302-4238 or log on to www.balaisabel.com.

Intercon Manila's Earth Hour menu

TODAY, INTERCONTINENTAL MANILA WILL BE ONE WITH the world for the observance of Earth Hour. The hotel will not only switch off lights in its main public and office areas from 8:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m., it will also serve a 5-course set dinner at the Prince Albert Rotisserie tonight with options to dine al fresco at the poolside garden for the very special price of P1,040 nett per person. The Earth Hour gourmet set menu consists of Alaskan Crab rolled in Rice Paper, Green Peas, Olive Oil Sabayon and Meadow Lettuce; Pacific Sea Urchin-Lobster Bisque Soup with Pumpkin Ricotta Dumplings and Asparagus Flakes; Pink Grapefruit Sorbet; Golden Filet of Sea Bass, Potato Scales, Carrot Sauce, rolled Honey Carrots, and Blue Poppy Seeds or Roasted Angus Beef Tenderloin, Parmesan Gratin Gnocchi, Lemon Emulsion and Garden Powder, Petit Chocolate Basil on Pistachio Financier and Amaretto Ice Cream; and freshly brewed coffee and a selection of fine international teas. Happy Hour at the Gastronomia Bar and Sol y Sombra Poolside Restaurant which starts at 6:30 p.m. will be extended to 9:30 p.m. today. For P550 net per person, one can enjoy delicious drinks and bites. Reservations for Gastronomia, Sol y Sombra and the Prince Albert can be made by calling 780-1000.

Easter egg painting festival at One Tagaytay Place Hotel Suites

AN EXCITING EASTER TREASURE HUNT AWAITS THE KIDS AND DIScover their talent while tinting them explore, create and indulge in a painting session. Ladies and gentlemen, on April 4 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the grand ballroom Salle Imperial One Tagaytay Place Hotel Suites. The on-the-spot painting contest will be supervised by a master artist. Have them read and have fun beneath the hotel goggles and clown during the event. An overnight stay in a city hotel will be raffled off. More prizes await everyone as well as tickets to Star City for the kids. Pass the check on April 4 p.m. to please on April 4 for in-house guests seeking of the Easter Festival tickets at P299nett per person.

Lenten egg painting festival at One Tagaytay Place Hotel Suites

AN EXCITING EASTER TREASURE HUNT AWAITS THE KIDS AND DISCOVER their talent while tinting them explore, create and indulge in a painting session. Ladies and gentlemen, on April 4 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the grand ballroom Salle Imperial One Tagaytay Place Hotel Suites. The on-the-spot painting contest will be supervised by a master artist. Have them read and have fun beneath the hotel goggles and clown during the event. An overnight stay in a city hotel will be raffled off. More prizes await everyone as well as tickets to Star City for the kids. Pass the check on April 4 p.m. to please on April 4 for in-house guests seeking of the Easter Festival tickets at P299nett per person.

Have a great Easter escape at Richmonde Hotel

TAKE A BREAK FROM THE OVERP-day this Easter at The Richmonde Hotel.

From March 20 to April 5, local residents and foreigners with a valid ACR can retreat to a relaxing and cozy haven with Richmonde's Easter Staycation Rates. The hotel's top-pointed guest rooms start at P3,000nett for an overnight stay with buffet breakfast for two adults and two children 5 and below. Room rates drop to as low as P3,600nett when staying for two or more consecutive nights. This also comes with free use of the Health Club facilities, 15-percent discount on food and beverage orders at The Richmonde Grill Lounge on the Easter Sunday Lunch Buffet and other special promotions or discount offerings, and the chance to win massage vouchers and gift certificates from Richmonde's Lobby Café.

Celebrate Easter Sunday with a lunch buffet feast at the Richmonde Grill on April 4, from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. for P1,200nett per person. Children 5 and below eat for free, while children 6 to 12 get 50-percent discount.

Fun and amusement abound for the young ones and the young at heart at the Pinto Easter Egg Hunt on at the Segundo Redwood Sacramento Function Rooms on Easter Sunday starting at 8:30 a.m. Tickets are at P675/net per child and P525/net per adult. The Pinto Easter Sunday Party is made possible by Leslie's Baked Cheesy Puffs, Leslie's Cheezy, Leslie's Cheez Chips, Stick-and Coca-Cola.

For reservations, call 636-7777. The Richmonde Hotel is located at 61 San Rafael Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City.

Easterrific at Sofitel

CELEBRATE THE AWESOME BEAUTY of life at the Sofitel Philippine Plaza and have an "Easterrific" good time from March 27 to April 4.

Tickets to the Easterrific Party on April 4 at the Sunset Pavilion come with the package, for two adults and two little ones. On the days between March 27 to April 4, kids are told enchanting stories at the Kids Club, decorating Easter bunny bonnets to bake, and enjoy many marvelous as well. Face painting and balloon twisting may be enjoyed at Spices on April 3, 4 and 4. Spiritual talks are scheduled on April 1 and 2 at the Bambino function room, while Easter mass will be held on April 4 at the Oratorio Sofitel with Father Jerry Orbos. Imaginative Bibi Michaelangelo get to paint Easter eggs every which way and get set for some basket Easter Egg Hunts! Naturally, accommodations start from Ph 10,000++.

Have a hearty Easter Brunch at Spices and relish authentic mouthwatering cuisine, with Greek specialties like lamb and yummy smoothies for the little ones. The Easter Brunch package is set at P2,380+++ for adults, and P960+++ for youngsters.

Take a trip to Leyte and be renewed in mind, body and spirit. At Leyte, taste the finest fresh pecans in Asia, pay over to posh "Paradise and party the night away in style.

Book in the famous Manila Bay suites at InCheli. Stay on down to Sunset Bar, where tightly grilled barbies and cultural dance are on the menus.

For reservations, call 551-5555 loc. 1991 or 2991 or 832-0991. E-mail: manila.reservations@sofitel.accor.com.

A 'boutique' Easter at Best Western Hotel La Corona

CELEBRATE EASTER SUNDAY MORNING AT Best Western Hotel La Corona Manila. We proffered boutique hotel in Ermita. For only P750 (net) per head, experience a scrumptious feast replete with additional sweets to please the kids and the younger bear. An egg-hunting activity will be prepared, with goodies and perks awaiting lucky egg finders. For inquiries and reservations, call the sales and marketing department at 524-2911. Seven bookings are also accepted. Best Western Hotel La Corona Manila is the 3rd Best Western property in the Philippines and is located at 1066 Adriatico Street, Ermita, Manila.

Cucina Romana: An Italian Food Festival at Paseo Uno

PASEO UNO ONCE AGAIN WEAVES appetizing fresh Cucina Romana, a week-long Italian food festival featuring guest chef Paolo Vladoni. From March 22 to 28, Chef Paolo brings the cuisine of his homeland, Roma, to the interactive kitchens of Mundo de Oriental, Manila's all-day dining buffet.

Guests can savor the diverse array of cheeses, antipasti, pasta selections and main courses. The menu runs very daily, but diners can look forward to such treats as wood-fired and risotto cheese, sage and pecorino, baked cod, salmon, capers and fresh tomato sauce and beef tripe save with mint and pecorino; luscious pasta with tomato and pancetta; tasty marinara pasta, egg and pecorino sauce; as well as an assortment of Italian cheeses, bruschetta, and salads. For a sweet ending, Chef Paolo also prepares such desserts as classic tiramisu, a creamy custard; sorbet di ricotta, frittelle, and zabaglione.

For reservations, call Paseo Uno at 733-8888 or visit Shangrila's Central. Manila's Facebook interests at www.facebook.com/ShangrilaMactanIntransitManila.

P1,400+++ for adults and P700+++ for children.

For those who wish to bring home the flavors of Italy, Chef Paolo Vladoni conducts a special cooking demonstration today 9 a.m. at The Deli. The cooking class is at P2,850+++, inclusive of a light continental breakfast, as well as lunch featuring the dishes prepared during the demonstration.

Chef Paolo Vladoni is a renowned, Rutgliolo-based Italian chef whose culinary expertise has taken him to five star hotels and establishments all over the world.

For reservations, call Paseo Uno at 733-8888 or visit Shangrila's Central. Manila's Facebook interests at www.facebook.com/ShangrilaMactanIntransitManila.

Lenten escape... Easter Wonderland

INSTEAD OF GOING OUT OF TOWN THIS HOLY WEEK, save time and gas by driving Main and have a wonderful time with your family at the Manila Pavilion Hotel's renowned Lenten promo. This popular "Two Plus One" room promo is back—stay for two nights and the third night is free! You have a choice of staying in Manila Pavilion luxurious one bedroom suite for P9,650++ a night or being the family swings for the larger two bedroom suite for only P11,288++ a night. This package includes Buffet breakfast, free use of the pool and cockpit courtesy shuttle to nearby churches (scheduled trips). This promo is available from March 29 to April 4 only. Bolivia Plaza joins "Mizz" in her adventures to magical "Wonderland" on April 4. This year's festivities will be heavier and the games much livelier. For only P999 net enjoy a super hearty merienda and lots of prizes and entertainment from sponsors Enchanted Kingdom, Sixty Five Philippines, Fun Ranch, Quezon Power Philippines, Bolivia Plaza Restaurant, Shangrila Shampoo, Hero Channel, Lemon Square Philippines, Atlanta House, Silkroad Marketing Philippines, bakers of Cheesie, FredCine, Monsters and PanCan. For reservations, call 887-1111 ext. 8000 or 8080. Bolivia Plaza is managed with distinction by Genesis Hotels and Resorts.

April Lenten offers at Manila Pavilion

ENJOY A FAMILY-FREE LENTEN RETREAT WITH OFficially designed room packages and gastronomy specialties. The "Pavilion Essence" room-only package is at P9,500 nett for a standard room. Delve into the "Pavilion Easy Rise Adventure" with room packages starting at P11,800 nett. The "Pavilion Advantage" includes of lunch or dinner in the complimentary for two at Bolivia's offers room-only starting at P4,600 nett. All room packages are valid only for bookings with prior reservations until May 31. For the duration of your stay, embark on a gastronomic journey at the Poolside Barbecue from April 1 to 4. Pavilion's drink of the month also entices as a P250 nett without chilled toy and P180 nett with stuffed toy, at the hotels' premier sports and music bar Bodyer. Complementing the drink is the Mexican quesadilla at P250+ at the pastry shop Patisserie, indulge in the praline of the month at P45+ per piece. For a splendid sugar fix, take of this month cherry tempura at P60+.

For free dining, the Restaurant's exquisite special gourmet set menu offered for lunch and dinner is at P650 nett.

Manila Pavilion Hotel is at United Nations Avenue corner Ma. Orosa Street, Ermita, Manila. For reservations, call 320-1212 or toll free 1-800-10-MANPAVILION (626-7284), or log on to www.solelhotelsmidas.com.ph.

Pan Pacific Manila's Easter Getaway

AN "EGGCITING" EASTER GETAWAY awaits guests of the first and finest. Butler hotel in the Philippines. Offered from March 29 to April 4, stay two nights for a guaranteed upgrade to the next room category, or book a Easter and enjoy complimentary pre-dinner cocktails for two.

This Holy Week specialties, at P4,500 net per room per night on single or double sharing with full buffet breakfast, a magical Easter goodies, unlimited wined or wireless Internet, complimentary local calls within Metro Manila (except calls to mobile phones), 50 percent discount on the Wedding Easter Sun tickets, 20 percent discount at the Pacific Lounge and Lobby Lounge, use of the swimming pool, gym and outdoor Jacuzzi, daily newspaper, two bottles of mineral water replenished daily and 24 hour butler service.

On April 4, kids and kids at heart are set for an EGGciting Easter Feast at the Conference Suite for only P600 net per person. This includes an all-day access to the swimming pool, kiddie swimsuits, buffet with live Sunday drinks at the Conference Suite with lots of games, prizes and surprises!

For Easter reservations, call us at St. Admirers corner Gen. Malvar Streets, Malate, Manila. Conditions apply. For reservations, call 526.8788 and ask for the Butler, of course!

Vatel Restaurant: Evoking elegant France

MAKE Plain fillet with cheese and lobster sauce

CHOOSING THE HAND-some De La Salle College of Saint Benilde School of Hotel, Restaurant and Institution Management (DLS-CSB-SHRIM) as the corner of Estrada and Arnaiz Streets in Malate is a new dining service, the rooftop hotel Restaurant. Its namesake honors the well-admired, internationally renowned hotel Management School found in France, but not least, which admits the DLS-CSB-SHRIM has a no-cap in its new course offering International Hospitality Management.

Leading designer and architect, Nick Mapa, said, "The restaurant's look may be described best as Mediterranean Fusion with supportive hints evoking the elegance of France."

French chef Pierre Comelis has prepared a menu to satisfy its clientele's penchant for Mediterranean-French cuisine in a more relaxed, more improved and more popular ambiance of concern.

Comelis, beginning his culinary career, Chef Renee said, "We will give our dining public a taste of the Mediterranean without having too much fuss and too many hurdles and too many steps to go through" within a nice view of an evening Manila Bay flow and a menu of popular Mod-French cuisine may be good enough reasons our restaurant can become a preferred dining destination."

This new dining outlet is staffed and managed by practicum students of the CSB-SHRIM. These future hoteliers and restaurateurs have mentored in the fine tradition of De La Salle.

Promotional Feature

Graduation frocks

Previous p1

But after being envious of her friends who were taking design courses, she realized she should study what she enjoyed. Do more—fashion! As a fashion design and marketing student at the School of Fashion and the Arts, Cubbie likes to use modern yet romantic details in her designs.

The dress she created met a lot of critiques and praises, creating a very sweet and feminine appeal—her personal stamp. While it looks dainty up front, its plunging back makes it sexy.

She says the dress is "for a girl who exudes confidence and charisma, someone who you would take to meet your mother, someone who is graceful and classy."

What are your fashion inspirations?

I am inspired by 2010's style, though it doesn't really show in my designs...old-movie it would confuse my audience. Maybe when I have an RTW line, I would inject the "vintage." I'm inspired by my muses. When they mark my dresses on the runway or in photo shoots, I'm inspired to make more clothes, with their inside sensuals, the cameras and the runs. I'm inspired by the classic and charismatic aura of Gwen Kelly, Kate Moss, Audrey Hepburn, Donna Vikaros, and Taylor Swift. They are all, fun, lively, beautiful.

Describe your personal style.

My style depends on my mood. One minute I'm in a romantic dress, the next I'm in baggy jeggings. I also go shopping in thrift stores, which gives the vintage look, with my style.

What plans after graduation?

It's either I intern for a fashion designer or do styling for magazines. After that, I hope to study at Central Saint Martin's in London for a short course. I really hope to study there in hours more about fashion and experience life in London.

What did you wear to your graduation ball?

To my grad ball in high school, I wore a polka dot ballroom dress with pearl necklace, which I designed. I would still wear it because it's a classic.

For my college grad ball, I would wear something backless, like cowl back with thin necklaces or pearls on my back.

If you had to create a grad ball for yourself, how would it be like?

Old Hollywood style! 1940s. I love that decade. Everything was so glamorous and sophisticated.

Who are your favorite designers?

I love Monique Lhuillier, Pierre Balmain, Valentino Garavani, Yves Saint Laurent, Karl Lagerfeld, Coco Chanel, Elie Saab, and Donatella Versace. Patti Tesoro, Mich Dulce, Jose Carvallo, Jojo Llorico, Randy Ortiz and Raje Laurel.

What's your fashion motto or philosophy?

Coco Chanel's witty quotes are always the first that come to mind. I always think of the classic elegance and timelessness that can be passed on to my client's children—something like an investment. I also love what Jojo Llorico said in the first season of project runway, "fashion is not just glamour, it is also hard work." This shows that fashion is not just fun and games. It is really hard work when you come up with a design.

True-blue success in custom-fit denims

Wearing Ino Caluza's Viktor jeans, you feel sexier, more confident and thrilled about your new pair

By Vicky Herrera
Lifestyle

"A GOOD FAIR OF Viktor can get you laid" is the statement you read right before you walk into Viktor, the modern boutique that specializes in creating custom-fit denims.

It is here where customers can choose how they want their jeans...from the types of denim, pocket design, stitching, cut...and even the color of the zipper.

The quality of craftsmanship and detail that goes into making a good pair of Viktor jeans is so exemplary that you do indeed feel sexier, more confident and thrilled about your new pair.

Ino Caluza is the designer behind this independent brand. Before his busy men denim design days, Ino worked as a graphic designer and art director for a magazine.

Back then, his love for good quality denim was so strong that he was collecting hundreds of pairs for himself. Eventually he leapt into the world of denim design with no formal training in fashion, but simply by studying the material intensely.

Ino was able to execute his favored minimalist style to another medium—denim. This style emphasized clean design with slight curves and more focused details.

He brings this aesthetic to anything he creates and surrounds himself with, whether it be a painting, a sculpture or the very he designs his home. Brands like Yves de Cauwer, Hudson Martin Margiela, Jose Hummer, Raf Simons's and Rick Owens are some of his design inspirations.

But Viktor Jeans, despite being for mass use, is not only for the common. He also created Vic, a more youthful line of wash-on-wear pieces. There is also Viktorious for young kids, and Lord Viktor, a high-end tailored line that uses premium denim.

Ino has expanded his business to include jackets, shirts, and T-shirts. He creates limited-edition attracted designed denim such as Polo Aquino, Jake Cuenca, Dulfi's Mac Quino, Raje Laurel, Jinoy de Leon, and even boxing champ Manny Pacquiao. He has also created hardies by selling his denim in Bankstocker, Singapore.

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Texas Roadhouse Grill Graduation promo

Start spreading the news! Texas Roadhouse Grill is honoring the Class of 2010 with a special 10% discount.

Simply flash your school ID and enjoy Texas Roadhouse Grill's cowboy-sized grub.

Ask your outfit on the New York Steak, 10 filling ounces of U.S. sirloin seasoned with herbs and garlic and served with fresh veggies and mashed potatoes on the side. Finish your meal with their famous Mighty Oreo Mud Pie, with its layers of rich coffee & chocolate ice cream with Snickers candy pieces atop a crushed Oreo cookie crust & drizzled with chocolate sauce.

Celebrate with Texas Roadhouse Grill's special graduation promo and share the momentous occasion with friends and loved ones at the following locations: Roadhouse High Street in Taguig (856, 1347 and 856.3409) or to their Ortigas branch in El Pueblo Road (633.6713 and 635.6716).

2bU LIFESTYLE

Reviewing for college entrance exam: Is it worth it?

'If you're going to invest in something anyway, the best would be to invest in your future'

By Gideon Wolfgang A. Isidro
Student contributor, De La Salle University

SO YOU'RE APPLYING in a prestigious college or university? Congratulations! If you're eligible to apply in such a college or university, you—older yourself! Blessed. Not that many people get through this far.

Now that you've been given the opportunity to prove yourself, the best thing to do is to get the highest scores possible in those entrance exams. Probably one of the best ways to get high scores in the entrance exams is by enrolling in a review center for aptitude.

"But that's added expense!" you might say. Or you could also say, "I can do it on my own, anyway." Or, "Sayang ang babayaran!" (the chance for a vacation is wasted).

Actually, those questions also entered my mind when my cousin Andre, Chemos, Mina and I enrolled in the Kalayaan branch of Ateneo Tutorial and Review Center back in the summer of 2006, when I was an incoming senior. But here on, I realized that it was good I enrolled for a review class. Why?

1. The money you invest is worth it. It's the same rationale when enrolling in an ordinary school. Why pay so much for education in a top college or university? Because we believe it's a good investment. Even if we sacrifice a lot now, we will reap bigger benefits later on.

If you're going to invest in something anyway, the best would be to invest in your future. The college or university where you will study would determine your career path in the future. It's important for you to do the best you can to get to the college you desire to go to. It's better to spend money to be accepted in a college that you want than not spend and not end up in the college where you want to study. It's a really bad mistake to pass the

BEHIND IT

GRADUATES GET SPECIAL WELCOME AT SM SUPERMALLS

A chorus of best wishes, dozens of irresistible dining offers, gadgets galore at tempting deals, and an honest-to-goodness rockfest add to the events celebrated by SM Supermalls for Class 2010.

SM Foodcourt's Create Your Own Group Meal
SM Foodcourt gives you a chance to plan a menu for four persons for only P450. You can mix & match from participating Foodcourt tenants – three viands, one veggie dish, four cups of rice and four 16-oz beverages... enough to satisfy big cravings!

Grad Bowl at SM Bowling Center
Enjoy the Glow Blowing and Hip Music event on March 27 at SM Mall of Asia, SM City Cebu and SM City Fairview. Enjoy 3+1 bowling games every weekday from March 29 to April 30.

THANKSGIVING MASS ALL SUNDAYS OF MARCH
Graduates who attend will be administered special blessings.
SM City Fairview · SM City Bicutan · SM City Sucat · SM Southmall · SM Center Las Piñas · SM City Taytay · SM Supercenter Molino · SM City Lipa · SM City Dasmariñas · SM City Bicutan · SM Supercenter Muntinlupa · SM City Cebu · SM City Marilao · SM Supercenter Valenzuela · SM City Iloilo · SM City Bacoor · SM City Iloilo · SM City Cagayan de Oro

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Get exciting discounts on your dream laptops, cellphones, digital cameras, photo printers and more at Techfair booths in selected malls!
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Mar. 24 - 28 SM City North EDSA
SM City Cebu
Mar. 27 - 28 The Sky Dome

GRADUATION DINING OFFERS
Great food offers await graduates who dine in to celebrate with family and friends at any SM mall.

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Graduates and friends are invited to rock to the music of the hottest bands
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JAMES BOND

DIVINE COMEDY

BABY BLUES

TULDOK

BEN

BIRD MACHINE

SHERMAN'S LAGOON

HOROSCOPE

BY RYAN CECIRANI

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) One of the first Mercury and Venus meetings that will occur in the Zodiac will be for you. It will happen years ago. Will there still be a crush? Sometime April 19 to May 20) Your ability to plan what you want to see next year. Your new one is definitely for this. What happens in the meantime is up to you!

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) Every encounter you have with Mercury and Venus will be for you. Your new one is definitely for this. What happens in the meantime is up to you!

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) You're not comfortable in organize forums, parties, business and PR's. Everybody thinks you're the center stage. Does you have the good sense make the most of it?

LEO (July 23 to August 22) Your business and relationships to do with personal learning or foreign education are favorable for you. Even the person you've been with for a while, you've found a whole new side.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22) Is your money and respect in danger from the people of others. Other relationships and issues are also affected.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Partnerships and close friendships are your primary focus now. Your business is the best time you've been in a long time. Your support from friends is very strong.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Success you have a strong urge to get better acquaintances, and you could find right here. Your business is the best time you've been in a long time. Your support from friends is very strong.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Someone catches the eye, sounds and stylish and then with children are all beautiful. Your social life is the best time you've been in a long time.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19) This is an excellent time to make home repairs. Family discussions, as well as discussions about legal matters, are also on hand. Discussions with a loved one will be successful. Capricorn.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18) Financial and many social favor trips, retreats, negotiations, money and safety. As well as re-evaluate working conditions and dealing with coworkers.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20) Someone brings you some as well as you have the energy and ability to get it done. Your best time you've been in a long time. Your support from friends is very strong.

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

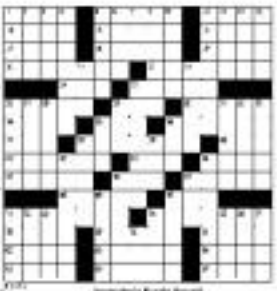
Fill the grid so that every row, every column, and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9. For more puzzles and programs, visit www.sudoku.com

Concepts Sudoku — By Dave French

		6			7	9		
	3				2		6	
4								3
3	5		2		9			
				6		4	2	7
1								5
	6		1			7		
		2	3			6		

Difficulty Level: ★★★★

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



Get your skate on!

By Paul Martin B. Ramos
Student correspondent,
Ateneo de Manila University

SUMMER HAS FINALLY arrived! Bid farewell to ten months long worth of school projects, homework and examinations. June is one months away, so what better plan is there than to enjoy the heat of the sun with a "Summer Heat Stroke"? Take it from the guys and gal featured here. Maybe you can get your skate on, too!

Kevin Sawit, 19 years old

Alias: "Kev"
Skate board setup: Earthwing combo, 180s trucker trucks, 1 1/2 soft cruiser pads, gravity 608 cc wheels
Protective gear: Skate gloves
Skating idols: Jon Adams, Stony Forsella, Rodney Mullen, Steven Rogoski, Dwight Ingram
Crashes: Bring new stone on board, Grind rail, bearing, blindside, kickside smash
Where to your next spot? The skatepark

Angelo Patrick B. Angeles, 20 years old

Alias: "Pat" or "Panda"
Freestyle setup: Loaded Bamboo for 'L Pan'e Tracks, Shark Combo bearings, Orangatang 74 wheels, Loaded Jaha Shaping Protective gear: 187 S3 Helmet, Landway Pads, Bontrager Loaded Glide Gloves
Skating idols: Adam Colton, Kevin Reese, Gerard Lizardo
School: Ateneo de Manila University, BS Communications Technology Management
Skate style: Freestyle and skating
Craziest thing ever done on board? After being surprised and chased by three angry and foamy-mouthed dogs, I used my board as a shielding device against them!
Broke to learn: I really have to accomplish a 5 Right Inch FAKIE. It's a trick where one pops his/her board to the air and then comes back and as the board while the board is in opposite front air. Aside from that particular trick, I want to master and learn the Downhill Backflip.
Usual spot: Clark and Bliss Plaza

Joseph Baron Sawit, 25 years old

Alias: "Bo"
Freestyle skate setup: Rambo III, 180Deep, Slickwide
Freestyle setup: Loaded Hendrickson, Riviera 180 wide, Pro pin remake
Protective gear: Bickness Island Fatties
Skating idols: Adam Colton, Adam Sidorenko, Alex Limbach, James Kelly
Company: Taste of the Nation, BC 1313 BOMB
Skate style: Freestyle
Craziest thing ever done on board: Bombing hills on cross wheeled Loaded board
Broke to learn: Big spin on a deeper
Usual spot: Harbor

Luigi "Wiji" Lacsamana, 25 years old

Freestyle: Loaded Pintail, Randal I-Ski, Simulon wheels
Protective Gear: Bell helmet
Skating Idols: Piggy Oki
School: De La Salle University, AB Political Science
Skate Style: Freestyle
What was the craziest thing you've ever done on your board? Something we'd much these days. That's easy, I should drink more often. Oh and when I started I used downhill bearings and giant slalom shapers. Big mistake obviously. You still wake up crying in dreams!
What kicks would you like to learn? Name it and you shall. Where do you usually skate? We used to skate a lot here at Teachers Village. Now we go to Eastwood.

Reviewing for *college entrance exam*: Is it worth it?

From page B1

chance to have a good future when you could have it by making the right decisions.

2. It gives an objective view of what we target and what we need to set goals.

You could say you could do the test on your own, or say you don't do it at all. Either case, it's good to take a review. Why? Because the review brings out the best out in you, and if you can't do it, you will be taught how.

There's a problem with the "I'm good already" point of view. You're measuring yourself against a standard which is unsure. What's your standard anyway? "Well, I'm better than my classmates, especially in the math part," you may say.

The standard of the college or university you're applying in has a different standard. You may be better in math than the rest of your classmates, but what if the kind of math that is emphasized in your school is not the kind of math you'd find in the entrance test?

Also, did your school teach you logical or abstract reasoning? It's something that's not taught in high school but a very crucial in the entrance exam.

Studying in a review center makes you see these targets which you need to compare issues about: anticipating latest, enabling you to hone specific skills or learn the skills you need for college entrance tests.

This is also the reason why it is not a good idea to study by yourself. You don't know the standards, and you may end up studying the wrong things and wasting your time for it. Also, a judgment of your performance is less biased if somebody else checks your performance for you.

3. College entrance test reviews hone your skills in answering the test area.

There are usually five types of tests that you will encounter in the college entrance tests. They are mathematics, reading, logical reasoning, abstract reasoning, and essay writing.

There is something common in all of these, they involve skill. If you say you don't have the skills, well this is the place for you. You can acquire the skill in a review center.

Now let's say you already have those skills, or you're good already in an entrance exam, you have to get as much correct answers in the lowest possible time. Enrolling in a review center would practice your using those skills, speeding up then use and their weaknesses as we.

Also, bear in mind that mathematics, reading, logical reasoning and essay-writing skills are skills which you will need in our thorough and your life. Think of enrolling to a review center not only as an investment for the college you are going to go to, but an investment for life.

4. Studying in a review center can be fun. Review centers do not have jampacked schedules as schools do. After the review, you can still go to the places you want to go to, just remember to answer the take-home problem sets. Studying in a review center also enables you to have new friends, so you aren't in Dunia gimmick.

Think of tomorrow

Brian Tracy the author of "Time Power" says that we should always think of the future, because that is where we are going. Don't just live for today, think of tomorrow.

I suggest you go to a quiet place where you can think of what you want to become. Ask around on you would get insights on which university would develop you into becoming that kind of person.

Go and think again. Then ask around again if you have to. When you've decided, go choose. But before choosing, always remember, the first step is reviewing properly, then surpassing your dream university's entrance exam.

Whatever path you take, bear in mind that the choice you make will be FOR LIFE. Happy reviewing everyone!

Tips to maximize your review center experience:

1. Be calm. Be responsible.
Don't just pass the requirements. Surpass it. Why? Anyone can make pass (or only 5 sunok pass). It's better to aim for your highest instead of passing than to aim for passing and fail it. Bagsak na Jamanis. Else? Be lazy.
Also, its good practice for work, because work is a never-ending process of refinement and improving. Where we do not seek to become the best we could be, we cannot find ways to improve ourselves. Thus, we never grow (we never shrink). If we ever want to advance in our careers, we must always push ourselves as far as we could go. And that practice starts once while we are students, or reviewees.
2. Pay attention to the reviews. Eat right, sleep right.
The teachers will teach you skills that are really important. Sure, summer is a time for vacation, but balance it with the fact that you're studying in a review center. Remember to sleep right, so that you'll have what breakfast before you could go to review class, and you'd be able to focus on your review classes.

3. Have good friends in the review.
The review may seem short-lived, but memories that friendships last forever, especially now that we have Facebook. You never know how friendship could give you so much happiness, so find and keep your friends.
4. Look for a good review center.
Review centers are like schools, every center has different methods of teaching or reviewing. What I like about Ateneo Tutorial and Review Center is that isolated of having a general type of exam for all the universities, it has tests that can each suitable to the types of tests given to applicants of UP, Ateneo and La Salle, because the standards of the tests are similar to the ones found in the actual exams, you'll get the proper mindset and preparation needed to answer the real exams. Also, Ateneo reviews their students one last time just right before the college entrance exams.

Gideon Gotchi is a third year B.S. Chemistry student, when is hobbies are surfing and at the De La Salle University.

Cheerful learning from a high school squad

"It taught me to value of teamwork and to be disciplined"

CHEERLEADERS Anna Campos, Angelica Consulta and Mayumi Tanlao

By Lek Carlo San Juan

IT'S FUN BEING A cheerleader in high school, there's a certain oomph awakens you to it. Plus the bonding is definitely different compared when you move to college.

"Yes, hell, but you can rely on your roommates to help each other up," says Mayumi Tanlao, who joined the squad only in her senior year. "I literally begged my mom that I join."

Her mom finally said yes and is now very supportive. Though balancing the squad and her studies is no easy task, her mom noticed that she has become happier.

Team captain Angelica Consulta has gained a lot being the "big sister" of her squad, and her lead-ership skills came to good use when a pissed member was suddenly pulled out by her parents, days before the NCC competition. She did necessary damage control.

"Being the cheerleading captain taught me to value of teamwork and to be disciplined," she says. And amidst her leadership, the squad gave the school its 4th WNCAA Cheerleading Championship trophy.

Anna Campos got hired per forming in inter-batch cheering competitions in school that's why she considers her cheerleading as a big passion. It's different when you perform for the school," she says.

Just Bida four a rich cheering tradition, and the fun Bida chi-heong it's recently reped to embrace the legacy. The squad landed fourth in the National Cheerleading Championships in the high school all-girls division, but this only strengthened them, for Bautista knew that our mission is to "Survive, triumph," which means, "Cut it down and 6 grows stronger."

Hear it from the girls:

What to be a cheerleader
Here are some tips to live by:

- Have team in line.
- Don't be afraid to try.
- Encourage is one of the best qualities to possess if you want to cheer.
- One must be grateful even when unconscious calls in.
- Cheerleaders always keep their heads up and they never say no.
- Always be willing to learn and have an open mind.
- Always work with the team.

THE SQUAD in their winning form during the NCC WNCAA Cheerleading competition

Photography Emerson Bocbac
Creative concept Lek Carlo San Juan
Makeup Paolo Manresa for Face It, Inc. and Mayumi delos Santos
Hairstyle John Aula and Kiwi Caballes both for L'Oreal Professionnel

Catching up

Travails of changing schools and graduating late

By Jonathan Lansang
Contributor

A LITTLE MORE THAN FOUR YEARS AGO, I found myself in front of my new school. All uncertainties, feelings, nervousness subsided and explored the facilities, and expected takeaways they ran into an old friend. The rest of the new students looked forward to the first of their final years as part of the vocational system; I, however, saw what was probably my last chance. This was my third college in four years.

The bright side to being a transferee is that you're grouped with others who like you, had begun the last leg of their educational journey then decided to finish it elsewhere. They become your friends, when you talk to them, two topics inevitably pop up: "Your last college and why you left."

Being three years more experienced meant that most of the courses were barely review classes. I was basically acing everything. It wasn't fair; it felt good to be on top.

Outside school though, a reality check was about to dash my high on. Dec. Dh Friend-ster (you know, that site before Multiply and Facebook), my landmates from my first college had begun to use their grad pictures for their profiles.

Thanks to my flexible schedule and the magic of the Metro subway trains, I would often commute to my old college to hang out with my old friends. While I'd made new ones, being able to hang out with old friends seemed to create the illusion that I was still a part of that school, a part of their lives, and most importantly, that I wasn't kicked out.

The veil shattered when they graduated though. Gone were the talk of physics class-es and "quizzes." Now it was paperwork this, and how school that. Some of my friends got married and had kids! The world had continued moving, and I had been left behind.

Not my better

Back in my new school, classes grew way to majors, and suddenly I was low. Studying in an art school stressed that. Getting back-ish meant upon. Salary was now a huge part of work, and could no longer relate as I had grown accustomed to.

I was still able to excel, but still found myself unable to produce art as beautiful as my friends had. It was a humbling experience.

A few years later, and it was my final year. I had squeezed by my majors and had begun working on my junior de ornamenter, me thinks. In the middle of all this, I suddenly hit a wall. I was just plain numb.

I was horribly depressed and began to feel like there was no hope for me in this career path. There were even times I thought I should just drop out and start working. They were trying moments, but thankfully, some friends, who had gone ahead of me, minded backing up a bit to tell me how clear I was to my goal.

I was back on track and more motivated than ever. I still felt like I lack talent compared to my other peers, but I made up for it with hard work. Spending countless hours searching for any edge I could from books and video online, basically anything that I could learn that could make my work unique. Everything was worth it. My last term as a student arrived, and I faced it with confidence.

Change

You would just smell the winds of change. The slightly younger friends I'd made were replaced by even younger ones who were more like my niece and nephew than a potential drinking buddy. Some teachers I had spent time with were gone too, and replaced by someone whom I might have actually been classmates with.

The day of my final defense still plays through my head like a pencil in front of the panelists, handing each one a copy of my thesis. I present my work with my prepared speech.

They find criticism for even the tiniest little bit in the end!

Walking out the door, I burst out victoriously in the crowd named My adoring public hoists me upon their shoulders as the triumphant hero and the screen fades to black.

Of course, in real life, I just quietly realized our stride a huge grin on my face the leaving passed. Still, that little dance that I got to do while wearing for the rehearsal home than Christmases and birthdays, and totally worth the sweat looks the people in, ask gave me.

I may have been left behind, but now, it's time for me to catch up.

Edita Nestor U. Torre • Assistant Editor Nick P. Audia

SATURDAY Special

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IN THIS ISSUE

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Underrated stars steal the thespic show

JUNOR. As thespic-proof and premiere gic, she's still one of the very best.

By Nestor U. Torre

(DESPITE THE FACT THAT WE have so many actors and actresses on the big and small screens, we still get the feeling that their accumulative work leaves a lot to be desired. This is the result of catering large but popular performers to major roles, while outrageously talented stars aren't given their due and left generally unutilized.

Take Nora Aunor. Most everybody concedes that she's one of the best instinctive actresses that Philippine entertainment has produced. In fact, just last week, she was hailed as the best Asian actress of the last decade—despite the fact that many of her best performances were turned in many years ago.

What about her current and future prospects? Alas, they remain in the realm of possibilities and conjectures, with no firm offers on the horizon. What a waste of considerably great talent.

Gifts

Indeed, quite a number of producers privately admit that, despite her obvious gifts, they think Nora's swollen comeback is a lost cause. They feel that, as far as the generally youthful TV-film audience is concerned, the Superstar of the '70s and '80s is no longer relevant.

We appreciate the "realistic" (but prone to prove their contention, but [*sweet mandolin*] we continue to boost Nora's cause, because we firmly believe that she still has some great performances left in her.

Is this just stubborn loyalty talking? Yes, she really still has it—if she finally controls her self-eliminating lack of focus, and truly great roles are written for her. Yes, Nora is prone to shooting herself in the foot, but as thespic proof and premiere gic, she's still one of the very best.

So, when she finally gets over the legal impediments that have kept her away from us for too many years, let's support her comeback film or TV special, because mature talent needs to be encouraged and celebrated, not cynically chastised or rendered mute and mediocre, as so many people have steadily done to our distinctive emo and heroine thespic icon.

Standards

Recently, another fine veteran actress, Janice de Belen, was showcased on "Rhoda-ella: Mi Kinsa," and her own underrated ability shone through with uncommon verve, depth and brilliance. The popular TV drama anthology should really be credited for providing occasional showcases for our underrated dramatists, to remind younger actors that there are rigorous standards that they have to measure up to if they want to be regarded as competent, natural or naturally serviceable and well-trained performers.

In her recent TV drama, Janice played an improvident and rotten-hearted mother who was despised by her children, because her poor choices in life had consigned them to a miserable existence.

PHOTO. Was what it takes to do full justice to more challenging roles.

This is the sort of highly emotional and even hysterical role that can bring out an Republican actress' basest and most livid melodramatic proclivities...but, Janice refused to go that loud and facile route. Instead, she worked hard to understanding her seemingly disreputable character and making her and her self-destructive actuations understandable to viewers.

Portrayal

Unfortunately, even as Janice's portrayal evinced great insight, focused power and subtlety, the younger members of the cast who played her children came off poorly, because they were the knee-jerk melodramatic, "pasiksik and bitchin" types. Clearly, our young actors have a lot to learn—as we have—as Janice and other fine veteran thespians have then work cut out for them to show them that there is, indeed, a better way.

The most talented but underrated actress we'd like to see is Francine Prieto. The latter roles haven't been coming her way, and that's a pity, because she has what it takes to do full justice to them. We hope that our producers and directors will give Francine the roles her proven talent deserves.

DESERVES. Great insight, focused power and subtlety.

Superhero flicks get boost from Downey, Reynolds, Evans

CLOCKWISE, FROM LEFT: Oswalt, Chiodin, Reynolds, Hemsworth and Rogen portray Iron Man, Wai Machine, Green Lantern, Thor and the Green Hornet, respectively.

Win some, lose some for Manny Pacquiao

By Nestor U. Torre

MANNY PACQUIAO IS CERtainly the king of the world as a champion boxer, top product and political endorser, and hero of the masses. In other areas of his "wish list" life, however—not so much.

Are people trying to tell him something? And, is he listening?

Note: Right after his clear triumph in his recent championship bout against Joshua Clottey, Manny was asked whether he preferred to go home to a big contest in Hawaii, where he expected to score a K.O. on fans' emotional sensibilities with his singing talent. Translation: He wanted to be "embraced."

◆ THE BOXING champ refusing to read and acknowledge the writing on the wall

Yes, Pacquiao's singing is not the worst we've heard, but it's not the best either. Yet, despite the fact that his ability as a singer is definitely not on par with his skill and prowess as a champion pugilist, and the fact that his singing can be described to be "embarrassing," he expected to be "embraced."

Limitations

Despite these obvious limitations, his Hawaii show was a "go"—until it turned out to be a "no," due to poor ticket sales. That's right, people were prepared to pay big bucks to see him fight, but not to hear him sing.

Some blaming fallen short of his target in his alternative career as entertainer, Manny is now venturing into another sideline, politics—no longer just as an endorser of would-be presidents, mayors and senators, but as a congressional candidate in next May's polls. Will he do better at this new calling?

The jury's still out on that one. If memory serves, however, he did poorly in his first congressional bid. What makes him think he'll be able to pull off a political victory this time? Well, he's a bigger boxing star and draw this year, and he's running for office in a different province, where the big bucks and patronage politics competition could be less overwhelming.

On the other hand, there's the feeling that upon a number of people simply aren't ready to support Manny's numbering ambitions, possibly because they feel they would not be making full use of his strengths.

More to the point, they may feel that they're sending a signal that Gloria is clinching them or even disqualifying them.

They want their money to do what he's best at, period. And, if he dabbles in this and that, they aren't likely to be enchanted.

To support him, he'll need boxing to do the wall of fans' preferences that Manny refuses to read and acknowledge! And, if he continues to heed only his own counsel, where will his show biz and political adventurism take him? Not to the classroom, we trust.

Some people wonder why after working so long and hard to become an international boxing champ, Manny is enacting drama in other arenas of combative contention. An explanation could be that his sterling success as a boxer has made him feel all-powerful and capable of anything he fancies.

Ambition

As his new experiences have shown, him, however, that is not always the case—often not the case. Which is why his many fans applaud his ambition, but decry his lack of objective self-evaluation. May he think twice, thrice, 10 times, before deciding to dare the fates to do their worst.

A boxing champion he has become, and that he should remain, uncompromised by boxer and his judicious decision that could erode even his hard-won capital as the nation's top sports hero and champion.

By Nico P. Aulo

COMIC-BOOK GEEKS AND ACtion fanatics have good reason to get excited. In upcoming film seasons, Tinseltown is fielding high-profile celebrities to don the masks, capes and tights of popular superheroes like Iron Man, Green Lantern, The Green Hornet, Aquaman, Thor and Captain America.

On May 7, Robert Downey Jr. returns as the action franchise that catapulted him to Hollywood's A-list in "Iron Man 2," the much-awaited sequel to his ride the superhero's gold-and-red titanium alloy-protected armor once again.

Tony Stark's revelation about his secret identity gets him in hot water, and forces him to forge new alliances—with the battle-tailed War Machine (Don Cheadle), S.H.I.E.L.D.'s Nick Fury (Samuel L. Jackson) and The Black Widow (Scarlett Johansson). There, vengeful new foes are eating to get a piece of him, like Ivan Vanko aka Whiplash—who can't get any sexier, because Mickey Rourke is playing him!

Secret desire

Before going toe-to-toe with Iron Man, get ready to "Kick-Ass" on April 15. The anticipated film follows Dave Lizewski (Aaron Johnson), a nerdy high school student who harbors a secret desire to be a superhero. So, despite not having special powers, he gets fueled a wetsuit and sets out to fight crime—as Kick-Ass.

Dave almost gets himself killed, but his encounter inspires others to do the same. Then, the genuine powers—to put on a rape and fight crime: Thor, Hit Girl (Chloe Moretz), Red Mist (Christopher Mintz-Plasse) and the Batman-like Big Daddy (Nicolas Cage) enter the picture—and take vigilante crime-fighting to new heights!

After playing the extraordinary mercenary Deadpool, in Marvel's "Wolverine," Ryan Reynolds jumps to DC Comics' "Green Lantern," as cocky test pilot, Hal Jordan, who is mentored into the intergalactic police force by Green Lantern Sinestro (Mark Strong). Lively is cast as Jordan's on-and-off love interest, Carol Ferris, who later becomes the warrior villainess, Star Sapphire. Joining Reynolds and Lively are Peter Sarsgaard, Tim Robbins and Mark Strong as the alien antagonists. Director Martin Campbell reunites and former mentor to the Green Lantern Corps.

If Reynolds knows his way around the crime-fighters' universe, so does Chris Evans, who's already played two metahumans before (shrinking Captain America's child and star-spangled mantle—as the "mean," Mick Gaea, in Paul McGuigan's quirky superhero flick, Push," and the Human Torch in two "Fantastic Four" movies.

Project

In Joe Johnston's "The First Avenger: Captain America," Evans plays Steve Rogers, who volunteers for a top-secret project that turns him into the superhero. Joining him are Hayley Atwell (as Peggy Carter) and Hugo Weaving as Captain America's premier antagonist, The Red Skull.

In Kenneth Branagh's "Thor," doubled Dr. Donald Blake (Chris Hemsworth) discovers his heretofore unknown alter ego, the Norse warrior. Thor, as he figures other alongside characters (played by Anthony Hopkins (as Odin), Natalie Portman, Stellan Skarsgard and Rene Russo).

"Hancock Up's" Seth Rogen is cast against type as "The Green Hornet," which gets a big-screen reimagining in the hands of Michel Gondry ("Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind"). Rogen portrays obtuse (!) newspaper publisher, Britt Reid, who doubles up on the masked crime-fighter at weekend—alongside his sidekick, martial arts expert, Kato, played by Taiwanese superstar, Jay Chou. Cameron Diaz, Tom Wilkinson and Christoph Waltz (as the gangster villain, Chudnofsky) complete the impressive cast.

Josh Brolin, Megan Fox, Michael Shannon and John Malkovich team up in Jimmy Hayward's newest creation of "Jonah Hex" (opens on June 18), in which the scarred bounty hunter (Brolin) cracks a voodoo practitioner who raises an army of the undead in the Wild West.

On the small screen, you'll get a lot of superhero sightings on "Smallville" (now on Studio 23, 8pm) and Starworld's "FAITH" counts Ryan Kwar (aka Supergirl (Laura Vandervoort), makes her first appearance on the show's seventh season. Then, in the Season Eight opener, "Odyssey," a powerless Clark Kent (Tom Welling) visits a helping hand from the Justice League of America's Green Arrow (Justin Hartley), Aquaman (Alan Ritchson), the Black Canary (Minnie Driver), and the Martian Manhunter (Phil Morris).

Special visitors

In the episode, "Legion," Clark runs into some special visitors from the 31st century: Cousin Bay (Ryan Kennedy), fighting Lad (Calum Worthy) and Saturn Girl (Alaina Johnson), founding members of the Legion of Superheroes.

And, in Season Nine's 11th episode, "Absolute Justice," Raised wears up with Hawkman (Michael Shanks), Hargid (Britt Irvin) and Doctor Fate (Brent Stait) of the Justice Society of America—after two former superheroes, the Iron Spangled Kid and Sandman, are murdered!

MAHAMOUR. Sessions on building confidence, poise and projection.

New fitness video teaches boxing fundamentals

VALERIE CONCEPCION'S NEW FITNESS video, "Punch Out," has been conceptualized by governor-to-be Mike Defensor. The boxing fundamentals it teaches include stances, footwork and jabbing, and are expanded in the less fitness regimens. The upcoming girl group, Sarsaia, is also featured in the instructional video, directed by Mary Ildefonso.

Summer workshops

The Spotlight Artists Center is inviting everyone to join its summer workshops in musical theater, kids' theater, acting, voice, drama, guitar and piano, as well as its Karaoke Star program. Log on to spotlightartistscenter.com, or call 899-3620.

'Martir sa Golgota'

Lea Salonga's Mobile Theater Foundation (Mobiful) is again staging the topical musicale, "Martir sa Golgota," from March 28 to April 5. Miguel Moreno, Al Tantiado and Jojo Riguerra alternate as hosts, and special guests include Rosie Garces, Evelyn Pamon and Andy Bais. Reservations are at 8924-2828 (Mabilisan), March 30 (Pandacan), April 1 (San Juan), April 2 (Tondo), and April 3 (Sampaloc), below shows.

Rissa Marasigan teaches modeling

Style icon, Rissa Marasigan, teams up with Andre Gonzaga at Sky Talent, a summer workshop program in Eastwood City that teaches kids, teens and adults the craft and art of singing, dancing, acting and modeling. Rissa's modeling course includes sessions on building confidence, poise and projection, from April 1 to May 30. Call 519-0487 or 584-5378.

Easter Farm Ville Family A-Fair

Subic Lighthouse Marina Resort's Easter Farm Ville Family A-fair is a series of events from March 31 till April 4 that offer arts, crafts and cooking demos for kids, as well as health and wellness activities for all of the members of the family, culminating in an "egg-citing" Easter on April 4. Visit www.lighthousesubic.com, or call 711-4044.

'The Colony'

What would you do after a global catastrophe? "The Colony" on Discovery Channel is a controlled experiment that attempts to determine exactly what it would take to survive and rebuild a functioning new society. The new series will be telecast every Wednesday at 10 p.m. starting April 1.

Most affordable postpaid service

The Sun Broadband Wireless (SBW) Plan 350 offers the advantage of a postpaid plan for as low as P350 per month, including 45 hours of Internet, with speeds of up to 2mbps. The SBW network is backed by WiMAX technology, so subscribers have eye on connected even in areas where 3.5G is not yet available.

Fun animated series on video

Check out these animated videos for the young and the young at heart. "Barbie," with 12 titles spoofing the lovable doll in a gross variety of roles.

"The Land Before Time," the TV spin-off of the hit animated feature, following the adventures of male characters, Littlefoot, Cera, Spike, Ducklie and Petrie.

And, "Mr. Bean," featuring hilarious situations, bizarre situations, and endless laughter and fun.

Kastigo rocks Magnet

Rock band, Kastigo, launches its "Grounded" EP (extended play) at 9 p.m. on March 31 at Magnet High Street, Tagaig. There will also be performances by Enemies of Satyrs, 19Sixty, Rainbarrs, and Lorenzo. Visit www.xplicit.com.

JOJO Riguerra (center) plays Jesus Christ in Miriam College Foundation's upcoming

FAMILY TIES

Jolina Magdangal, as her father sees her

By Rio F. Adlis

NO ONE KNOWS US BETTER than our relatives and friends. This is the concept that drives Family Ties—which you'll see more of in this section. One time we meet Jolina Magdangal, who's currently seen on GMA-7's "Panday Kids." And, no one knows Jolina better than her father, Jun, who until recently was also the singer-actress' manager.

We've always enjoyed talking to Jolina's articulate and sensible dad, who was an established corporate man long before he started steering his daughter's colorful show biz career. His answer, "When does being a father start and being a hands-on manager begin? Harrowing and managing a talent don't always go hand in hand. A father wants his daughter to be healthy and well-rested, while a manager's priority is to make as much money as possible for his talent."

People used to describe me as a stage father, just because I was doing my job as Jolina's manager. I couldn't shake off my parental discipline out of my system, as one of the rare things that Jolina and I used to argue about was my being a taskbe for professionalism. Jolina can testify, since told me, "There is a 30-percent performing and 70 percent training." Sometimes, Jolina would report to the set at six in the morning for a 7 a.m. call—and no one would be done?

Three siblings

Jolina, now 31 and the second of three siblings, is the only singer-actor in the family, but the Magdangals are by no means strangers to show business stories. "My grandfather was Fiorello Marcos, who appeared in the Carmen Rosales-Rogelio dela Rosa movies, Wednesday Mo Kaya," Dolphy and Lolita Rodriguez's "Jack & Jill," and 1960's "Inang ng Tanghalan," starring Susan Roces, Amalia Fuentes, Bimbo Enriquez and Juancho Gutierrez.

"My uncle, Jose Mendoza, was in movies like the Ferdinand Marcos starrer 1965's "Episodyng Tadhana" for which the 11-year-old Gloria Romero played Imee, and Bongbong Marcos played himself. My aunt, Pandora, plays the piano, my mother sings, and I used to be part of a combo."

Now old was Jolina when they first realized she had "potential"? Jun replies: "She was only 8 months old. She turned jukebox songs from her mommy who also taught her nursery rhymes. She would sing 'Huddle to Engenho' in gibberish—and with actions! One time, when she was around 4 years old, we punished, because she went downright Lolita, when she got home, she was holding a microfone recording of Sharon Cuneta, and had P70 in her pocket said a child, because she had joined only an amateur singing contest, where all the other contestants were adults—and she won second place!"

It's public knowledge that Jolina's fiesta widespread popularity on ABS-CBN's "Bay [illegible]" and those moonlighter flicks with constant partners Marvin Agustin, she was a member of Ryan Cayabyab's 14K. Our favorite Music Man has fond memories of Jolina, who was only 10 when she first joined the kiddie singing group: "Jolina was a cute girl who always had a ready smile," he recalls.

Although, initially she had only 'average' talent, she became one of the better singers in the industry, because she was constantly motivated by her parents, who were always there to support her.

"If parents have the intelligence and proper foresight, they can be assured that their children—with values firmly in place—will go a long way. The issues to say that Jolina only followed what they said, became a certain point in time, she was already turning her career with the same tenacity and dedication that her parents had.

Many gifted young singers aren't as lucky, because their parents haven't prepared them for the future."

Premature

What are the things people don't know about Jolina? Whom is she closer to? Jun replies unhesitatingly with a chuckle. "She was a worn baby, her she was undemonstrative and tiny. She had to stay in the hospital for one week. It's hard to say who she's closer to. She's strong step-dad-ing-bonng [sic]. If she needed something that she didn't want me to know about, she'd tell her mom—and vice versa.

"She was in Eng TV the first time somebody coached her and gifted her with a nutrition. So [illegible] she is [name of actor] ng mukhan. Should I accept it?' She was excited, but also apprehensive.

"Jolina is fun-pun—up to a point. She has a collection of Louis Vuitton and Prada bags, but sometimes, you see her carrying a used bag she bought for only P200! Dalo-ryo, simple ang."

"People don't know that Jolina is super-sensitive. She is outspoken at pulpol sa ka. But, she also knows when to react and when to hold it back. Lesser those p-pa ang mga problema niya as love and the movement politics in show biz. She would just go to her room and cry. She tries on the low-sense thing so that she won't involve me in her self, but she runs to us for advice when things get too hurtful."

Jolina's 34-year-old sister Michaela, tells us conspiratorially: "Minsan si Jolina sa set ng [illegible] very generous 'yan sa mga kapatid at iba-iba."

Worst intrigues

What were the worst intrigues they had to deal with? Jun quickly answers, "You have to be judicious when you handle intrigues. Sometimes, they just die a natural death when you don't react to them. When Jolina was about to leave ABS-CBN, we just laughed off rumors that she was into drugs and was pregnant with Marvin's child. He/she/ they know better.

"I was more affected, though, when it was written in magazine that Jolina was too inebriated after attending the birthday party of a colleague. Somebody got very drunk alright, but it certainly wasn't Jolina! She was the very first celebrity who was given the CMMA's freshman award, and we take her responsibilities as a role model to heart."

OK, let's talk about her fashion. Who's responsible for all those jokes? Jun insists, "They're all Jolina's ideas, with a little help from the late Jun Encarnacion. I got very upset one morning when I saw her at the breakfast table, with her hair in pansing super-supin—mop kulay ube at pinkish! I scolded her but was told that Jun Encarnacion! Magpapagal kaya ako dito? But, her interventions saved me in more her shoes. When I realized that she was indeed making fashion statements of her own—and the colors started fading—I attempted to help Jolina, pakialamin na 'ako' (laughs.)"

New friendships

THE TWO BOOKISH TIMES SISTERS were with us to discuss an interesting site on Facebook.

Jolina Grace says there's so much to do at the place and its people, the food, and the new friendships forged among us." She noted Batanes' beautiful children—"They have sun-bronzed skin, engaging smiles, and eyes that are always ready to smile. Their love for books and reading is admirable."

At Morong Beach in Subang, William Tan Uy-ieong was into collecting shells and driftwood. On Facebook, he says that the experience reminds him of concepts from Paulo Coelho's "The Alchemist": "My heart is afraid that it will have to suffer." the boy confides to the Alchemist one night.

"Tell your heart that the fear of suffering is worse than suffering itself," the Alchemist replies. "And that no heart has ever suffered when it goes in search of its dreams because every second of the search is a second's encounter with God, and with eternity."

* * *

Join the Batanes Photo Safari on April 23-26 or May 6-9, as well as the Cuyo Photo Safari on May 13-16. E-mail manilymuseum@yahoo.com, or call 893-1767.

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Life's Easter-rific at SM City North EDSA

Easter is all about celebrations. It's bunnies and goodies, colored eggs and garden hunts. It's about the joy brought about by a season so egg-citing, that each year just simply tops the last.

Easter Fun at the Sky Garden

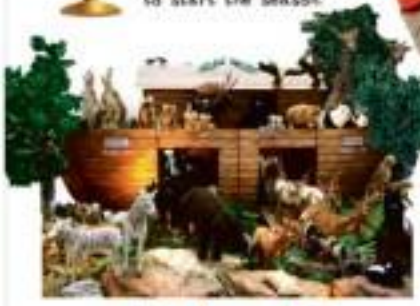
March 27 - April 8

Giant mushrooms and huge eggs await you in the fantastic Easterland. Deal with a large Deck Of Cards that come to life, get to give a Giant Rabbit a hug. Watch as Toy Soldiers come marching past while skillfully playing their instruments. Nothing is impossible in a world made entirely of fantasy and imagination.

Easter Celebration Mass at The Block

April 4, 9am

Celebrate Christ's resurrection with your family. Hear Mass at the Block for a blessed way to start the season.



Easter Tea Party at the City Center

April 4, 10am, Event Center

Celebrations aren't quite complete without surprises. And at the City Center's Tea Party, there's sure to be a lot of those. Heaps of treats are in store for kids and adults alike. Tons of fun lie ahead for families to experience. Hop on into SM City North EDSA this Easter!

Noah's Ark at the Block

March 23 - April 8, The Block Atrium

Kids will marvel at Noah and his animal friend pairs race aboard the majestic Ark. Everything's made of pure magic - experience the wonders of seeing your favorite biblical story come alive before your very eyes.

Rabbit Riders Easter Amnesia at the Annex

April 4, 4pm, 4th Floor

What happened to all the Easter eggs? All the Rabbit Riders have forgotten to hop, that's what. The mischievous Rat has cast a terrible amnesia spell on all of them, and now Easter egg deliveries have been put on hold! Enter this new adventure to find out if the spell gets undone before Easter.

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Noel Coward's secret life as a sleuth

By Bebs Cervantes

"CELEBRITY WAS A LOOSE BUSINESS," exclaimed Noel Coward, one of England's most successful playwrights in the '30s and '40s, when he admitted just a month before his passed away in 1973 that he was an undercover agent during the war years. In his heyday, he was known as a bit of a fool and a playboy who ran around with party animals and many lovers. The bon vivant was a constant presence on the social scene.

Classified information

Using his wit, Coward could make people say more than they should. And, he alluded several literally during cocktails loosened tongues and lessened people's guard, so classified information was to be had for the picking! Who would have suspected Noel Coward to be an undercover agent?

But, he was one. Indeed! Interestingly, Coward worked with Ian Fleming, who later created James Bond. He was sent to places like Warsaw, Helsinki and Moscow to party—and make people divulge secrets information! He exploited his playboy image, as well as his "don't ask, don't tell" policy to sneak his assignments against fascists.

Because the playwright was such a celebrity, he had access to the top celebrities in England, France and the United States. He cultivated a network of friends that included the Duke and Duchess of Windsor, who were both Nazi supporters. This was especially true for the duchess, who was the reason why the king abdicated the British throne.

So, while Coward sang some of his compositions to the cosmopolites of the continent, he used those occasions to gauge Nazi influence on important members of the audience, then relayed the information he gathered in Shoreham Dark, where he worked alongside Payne Ing and Sir William Stephenson.

Possibilities

Coward said he was never wounded a threat, because "nobody thought I had a sensible head, so they'd say all kinds of things...which I'd pass along." It seemed to get only inconsistently, later episodes promise scandalous like Larry David, Madonna and Ricky Gervais, a trio I'll pay money to watch.

But, the real laughs come from the couples, which I don't doubt are real, but are clearly "made for television." In an odd bit of synergy, both women in the premiere presented similar problems: They chattered to death their love stories, demands insecurity bearing in the bone.

In one case, this meant laundering of the not-so-beloved family pet; in the other, a strippers pole in the bedroom ("Just try for exercise," was the feeble defense). Both stress earned big laughs by temporarily upsetting their dreams. Both husbands got full reality checks from the panel.

At least, this seems to be a show where the squabbling pairs actually like each other; there's little of that in primetime reality shows. Besides

COWARD: His flamboyance was a great cover.

was secret diplomat. Robert Vansittart, who recognized the playwright's possibilities as an undercover agent in the late '30s—his flamboyance was a great cover!

In fact, it wasn't until Coward himself, in his autobiography, "Future Indefinite," that the public realized he had dabbled in espionage.

But, it wasn't until 1973 when the world realized how seriously he had been involved in it! Coward could have made a fortune exposed of it, but the playwright/secret agent declined: "My life is full enough of intrigue as it is!"

Seinfeld's 'Marriage Ref' is worth a few giggles

LOS ANGELES—"THE Marriage Ref" is mallwasser small, offering the sort of shallowness proudly displayed by co-creator-producer Jerry Seinfeld's sitcom after ego. Strictly there was no good reason to expect that the series—in which three unrelated celebrities sit in judgment over arguments otherwise losing couples are having, with mixed, Tobi Hope, (mediating—would) try and cover the White House finish in a serious way.

SEINFELD: Returns to the small screen via reality series.

Chance

Yet, the great silliness of what's this for hosts put on display seems to indicate that what might have been a vaguely informative if humorous take on dividing such spousal craziness is simply going to be played for entertainment value. Apparently, once television leaves daytime Oprah, any chance in educates goes right out the window, and by 10 p.m. there's nothing left to do but giggle at the clueless.

There are some giggles worth having, sometimes even from the celebrity guests. The panel is sardonic enough to jab internet, though the persistent dominance of Mike Ballarin, Kelly Ripa and Seinfeld

Gerard...

From page 1

idea—then, Ralph sent me the script, which is fantastic. I know the play, but this movie adaptation was done by John Logan, who wrote "Gladiator" and "The Aviator." He trimmed it down and made it understandable, accessible, powerful and cinematic. It's a great read, and I think it will be hugely accessible. Ralph has Vanessa Redgrave, Brian Cox—it's a formidable cast, and that creative energy scares the pants off me. I have to go into a job and go, 'All right, the I really know what I'm doing here?'

"I've been talking to Ralph a lot," Gerard smiled the actor, who's making his directorial debut and is playing the title role, as well. "He is one of the smartest people I've ever talked to...and one of the nicest and most appreciative. He also has a very deep association with Cymbeline. It's the play that he did almost 15 years ago on the West End. Ralph says it has haunted him since then, and he claims he had to turn it into a movie—so, it feels like there's a nice serendipity about the whole thing!"

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Dreamworks' animated adventure is solid, sincere

By Noelani Torre

"HOW TO TRAIN YOUR DRAGON" will take you on an exhilarating, genuinely kid-friendly ride that older viewers wouldn't mind getting on, as well. The newest animated feature from DreamWorks is also its 3D and makes excellent use of the technology, from subtle effects like falling ash to the thrilling ones like atmospheric-rendering dragon flights and death-defying plunges.

Story

Directed by Chris Sanders and Dean DeBlois, its story is set on the island of Berk, which is, according to its central character, Hiccup, located right on the "Meridian of Misery."

Life isn't easy for the band of Vikings who have made the island their home, largely because, apart from the fact that the temperatures are generally freezing and no crops can grow, they also have to deal with a serious large "pest" problem.

Those pests are winged, sharp-toothed and fire-breathing dragons, and it's safe to say that the residents of Berk have the worst pest problem in the world.

Life is one battle for Hiccup (Jay Baruchel), a lanky teenage dragon-killer wannabe who's built like a toothpick alongside his muscular peers and elders. Relegated as a jinx by the rest of the village, he dreams about bringing down a dragon to add to his dragonkills which, to him, might help him get the girl (Astrid, voiced by talented newcomer Americ ferrera) and maybe even the newer-believe-he-scored approval of his dad, the then-chief, Stoick the Vast (Gerard Butler, who manages to make his voice sound "manly-booted").

"HOW TO TRAIN YOUR DRAGON." Less gimmicky, more heart.

Resemblance

When he does manage to bring a dragon down, however (which no one believes), he finds out that dragons aren't the horrible, man-eating creatures they've believed to be. In fact, they're more like pets than pests.

The dragon he has just captured, which he dubs Toothless, bears a striking resemblance to Stitch (it has ears), but it's still cute), has a phobia for soft, and likes his head scratched, just like your ordinary canine. How to convince the rest of the dragon-hating Vikings, especially his dad, that they'd be better off making friends with their reptilian enemies becomes Hiccup's dilemma.

The story at the heart of "How to Train Your Dragon" is uncomplicated—it's nothing more than a variation on the boy-and-his-dog adventure tale—but, it's solid and sincere, a welcome change from DreamWorks' previously gimmicky-to-tortured treatments. The hero is funny, the visuals have depth (and not just to the 3D sense), the voicing is spot-on (Craig Ferguson as Gobber, the blacksmith, is particularly hilarious), and the pace is just right.

So, if your children are in need of entertainment this weekend, give them—and yourself—a treat, and find out how to train your dragon in the nearest moviehouse. Just don't be surprised if they'll want to don Viking helmets and shields afterwards.

'Parenthood' revisits family life 20 years on

ENIGMA. Portrays a multi-tripped single mom in Howard's character-driven series.

LOS ANGELES—MORE THAN two decades after Opera-winning director Ron Howard's family-inspired rite for movie, "Parenthood," a new generation of writers is bringing the joys, trials and humor of family life to television.

The TV series, "Parenthood," featuring four grown siblings in the colorful Braverman family, their children and parents, made its anticipated NBC debut on March 2. It's a reinvigoration of the struggling network's efforts to revive tailored dramas and lure primetime viewers after the embarrassing failure of its talk show, "The Jay Leno Show."

For the producers and writers, however, the program goes far beyond being merely a show to improve a time slot, and is a look back, characters driven story that reimagines a timeless tale of family life across three generations.

Lauren Graham of "Gilmore Girls" fame plays a cash-strapped single mom who returns with her two teenage kids to live with her parents in their sprawling Californian house.

Version

"I thought it would be a great time to revisit the movie and look at what generation we are now from what it used to be," said writer and executive producer Jason Katims. "I wanted this version of the show to have the film, then live on in 2010."

Howard, an executive producer of the new series, said the idea for his 1989 movie, "Parenthood," which starred Steve Martin and told of the Buchanan family, was born after one of his four children cried aside for the first time and vomited all over him as the beginning of a 17-hour plane flight.

"Parenthood" is a project I cherish. It's probably the most personal film I've ever been involved with," Howard told reporters. "We felt we could take this idea and bring it forward to today in a way that was compelling."

OPENS APRIL 3
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Oscar nominees are getting little box-office bump

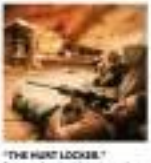
LOS ANGELES—SPREAD 10 ways, the phrase "nominated for Best Picture" hasn't lost much of a box-office effect. The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences doubled the number of nominees this year, in hopes of drawing more attention to the Oscar-nominated movies. But, the revenue bump for this year's crop is less than the one enjoyed by last year's five Best Picture hopefuls.

Figures

And, of the $126 million, all but about $25 million went to the one film in least need of an Oscar bump: The record-smashing "Avatar." The figures were presented between the nominations on Feb. 2 and the last weekend before the Oscar telecast.

Last year's Best Picture nominees pulled in some $3.96 million over a comparable period, and most of that went to a film Oscar helped turn into a sensation: "Slumdog Millionaire." Three of the five 2009 nominees at least doubled their take in that period, something no film in this year's batch even came close to doing.

"Up" was released so long ago it has been out on DVD for more than three months. "The Hurt Locker" did return to the big screen, but only in about 300 theaters nationwide. Tom Sherak, president of the Academy, believes that expanding the category to 10 has been successful, because it means more people have seen the nominated films and even likely to be interested in the Oscar broadcast. AP



"THE HURT LOCKER." Returned to the big screen after it won an Best Picture at the Academy Awards.

Gerard Butler: 'Jen and I got on like a house on fire'

ANISTON AND BUTLER. 'Similar sense of humor.'

LOS ANGELES—"Oh, OK, it's not the one with the two of us having sex in the bushes, no?" Gerard Butler joked when told that he and Jennifer Aniston looked like they were having fun in a photo recently published in a tabloid/social media magazine.

"I was recruited for a movie," said the actor, whose Scottish sense of humor ensures that there's not a dull second with him when he's giving interviews. "What is it? Oh, from the premiere?" he confirmed. Gerard was not joking though when he said of meeting Jennifer, his "The Bounty Hunter" co-star and rumored girlfriend, "Jen and I got on like a house on fire."

Before someone calls the police, Gerard said in the same breath, "she have a lot of fun together. I'm not sure what the photo is, but I think it's funny to spend

ONLY IN HOLLYWOOD
Ruben U Sayson

time with a woman, but I definitely developed obsessions and things that, at the time, could be associated with love. Early on in my career, there were times when I had relationships with costars—and both times, it was a character to kind of become me, the middle of making the movies, and we had the rest of those films to make. It's uncomfortable—spending more than half your day working with somebody where the relationship is very tender or, as you would say it, vulnerable."

Voice talent

Was Jennifer as much fun to work with as Katherine Heigl ("The Ugly Truth")? "I had a great time working with Katie," answered the actor who is a voice talent in the animation film, "How to Train Your Dragon." "Katie is the consummate professional. She's hilarious, but I'd say that my time with Jen was really special. She and I clicked immediately. We have a very similar sense of humor. We're both very down to earth—no pretense. One thing I love about Jen is that she appreciates everybody around her!"

"I was kind of schizoid by her

finally," Gerard volunteered. "She has people who work with her all the time. That spooks volunteer about her, because she surrounds herself with her, spiritual and artsy people who don't take themselves too seriously. I spent more time hanging out with them. Often, even when I'm working hard at movies, I like to escape to my own trailer. I like my private time. But, this was a very social movie. I couldn't speak highly enough about her."

Asked if he has ever fallen in love with a costar, Gerard revealed: "Jamie Foxx, I suppose." The two costarred in "Law Abiding Citizen." Laughing, he continued, "I don't know if I've ever fallen in love

On-set romancing

The former lawyer acknowledged why on-set romances happen: "There's something about acting that, when you're down, you're giving up so much of your time, your effort, and you start to see more deeply into a person than you would if you were working in an office. Having worked in an office, I know that I discover much more about the people

Susan Boyle, whom he beat in a poll to crown the 2009 "Scot of the Year," insisted instead, "She's amazing! Even my mother said, 'You'd better not beat that lit. me Boyle. I love her!' She's fantastic, and her album is due here soon. I would you to tell her that!"

Rugged style

Complimented for his rugged style, Gerard dished how that might tend in an outfit: "While scratching his wild mane] I worked with Jen. It's weird. Maybe it's because you're often away on location.

"Or, maybe it's because acting breeds the type of person that you have a lot in common with. Or, there's something very passionate, exciting and sexual about creating a story, and when you see it start to happen, you get so excited and you can connect with that person you're creating it with—then you want to f..k them. So, laughter] I can't help myself."

On follow nice,

Jaden Smith ...

From page 1

crash course in martial arts from a stuntman-mate [Jackie Chan], so he can defend himself against a band of bullies.

The movie was recently screened for theater owners attending the annual ShoWest convention, where Smith received an award as Breakthrough Male Star of the Year. "I'm very excited about getting awards already. It's crazy," Smith said in an interview.

Smith said he ladies, whose action flicks include "Hancock," "I am Legend," "Independence Day" and the "Men in Black" and "Bad Boys" movies, was a fan of the original "Karate Kid," and thought Jaden, who already had studied karate, would be the right guy for the role. "My dad had the idea of remaking it," Jaden-Smith chuckled. "He's the one who was like, 'We need to make this movie.'"

Roles

Jaden Smith got his big screen start alongside his dad in the 2006 drama, "The Pursuit of Happyness," and costarred in the science-fiction remake, "The Day the Earth Stood Still." He said he wants to make acting a lifelong career and take a page from his father's book with more action roles.

Will and Jada were producers on "The Karate Kid," along with Jerry Weintraub, who produced the original film and its sequels. "It's funny when you fiddle around with a classic," Will told the likewise multi-

ning object. Or in his in a very cool loft in a dress kilt."

The naughty side of Gerard took over again: "I laugh, but there's nothing certain ... you feel so strong when you're wearing a dress kilt. You feel like you're ready to do so many things." Like, he wild? "You're ready to look sophisticated, but be wild under that, you know," he quipped in laughter. "Under that pinstripe—under that."

Gerard offered that "Gothamma," a movie adaptation of William Shakespeare's tragedy, is the project he's "very excited about." He explained, "The first job I ever got as an actor was to the play, 'Coriolanus.' I've said this story many times that I begged [director] Anton Bridell to a coffee shop in London to let me come in and work him. It was the first professional engagement I ever got. I was just a part of the ensemble, but to me, it was like winning the Oscar—or, when he opportunity came along, and I found out that Ralph Fiennes was interested in me, I was like, 'Oh my, one of the biggest compliments is when Ralph, an actor of unbelievable intelligence, stature and talent, says that he's interested in you. Then, you go, 'Well, I can't be all that bad, after all.'

"I was excited by the

RUBEN U.

SATURDAY Special

CARREY (WITH MCGREGOR, RIGHT). Zippy check-push and comic flair.

NOW SHOWING

Romance interrupted

By Nestor P. Aviles

"EVERY MAN HAS HIS OWN quirks and twists," Marites Brocher Somoc once proclaimed. The same can be said of the filmmakers de Head Victor Buco starry, "Bestseller," and "I Love You, Phillip Morris," starring Jim Carrey and Ewan McGregor. Both films carry dark, cautionary themes, but their tone and execution can't be more different—the former is a romantic drama, while the latter is a gender-bending rom-com.

With zippy check-push and comic flair, Carrey keeps up with the comic beauty of Gloria Picazo and John Requiz's "I Love You, Phillip Morris," which follows the true story of con artist, Steven Jay Russell—who's currently serving an unprecedented 144-year sentence for his fraud-related, credit-card-driven exploits...and bum for naives his "man," fellow jailbird, Phillip Morris (McGregor).

"ROMEO AT JULIET." Yet cautionary tone carries a pertinent warning.

MOVIES like "Ding Sana Ako" depict the realities in the lives of Filipinos.

FORUM

What makes local indies tick?

By Noelani Torre

THERE'S NO DOUBT THAT LOCAL INDIE films have most of the movie-viewing in many of today's local mainstream movies. They have gained a significant amount of press in recent years, and more and more people are beginning to get into the indie thing, as well. Some thoughts from moviegoers about the indies, what they like about them, and how they think they can be made more accessible.

Are our filmmakers listening?

"Indies are interesting. Sa indie ko nakakapanood ng mga publishing kitsh na mas imagine na pwede palang magawa—dahil yearning ang indie directors. Alam communicate sa ano. Sumagawa sila ng ibang style. Interesting! Mas are having. Ang ayoko lang sa indies, madalas mahaba, dahil hanggat's memory, ayad. At, mahirap

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1 HOW TO TRAIN YOUR DRAGON	1 HOW TO TRAIN YOUR DRAGON	1 HOW TO TRAIN YOUR DRAGON
2 I LOVE YOU PHILIP MORRIS	2 I LOVE YOU PHILIP MORRIS	2 I LOVE YOU PHILIP MORRIS
3 ALICE IN WONDERLAND	3 ALICE IN WONDERLAND	3 ALICE IN WONDERLAND
4 BOOK OF ELI	4 BOOK OF ELI	4 BOOK OF ELI
5 HOW TO TRAIN YOUR DRAGON (3D)	5 HOW TO TRAIN YOUR DRAGON (3D)	5 HOW TO TRAIN YOUR DRAGON (3D)
6 FRIGHT NIGHTS	6 FRIGHT NIGHTS	6 FRIGHT NIGHTS
7 GREEN ZONE	7 GREEN ZONE	7 GREEN ZONE
8 MISS YOU LIKE CRAZY	8 MISS YOU LIKE CRAZY	8 MISS YOU LIKE CRAZY
9 THE TAKING OF PELHAM 123	9 THE TAKING OF PELHAM 123	9 THE TAKING OF PELHAM 123
10 THE LOVELY BONES	10 THE LOVELY BONES	10 THE LOVELY BONES

CITY OF MALABON	CITY OF NAVOTAS	CITY OF PARAÑAQUE
1 HOW TO TRAIN YOUR DRAGON	1 HOW TO TRAIN YOUR DRAGON	1 HOW TO TRAIN YOUR DRAGON
2 I LOVE YOU PHILIP MORRIS	2 I LOVE YOU PHILIP MORRIS	2 I LOVE YOU PHILIP MORRIS
3 ALICE IN WONDERLAND	3 ALICE IN WONDERLAND	3 ALICE IN WONDERLAND
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CITY OF PASAY	CITY OF QUEZON	CITY OF SAN JUAN
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luzon

CITY OF BALANGA	CITY OF CABANATUAN	CITY OF CALAMBA
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2 I LOVE YOU PHILIP MORRIS	2 I LOVE YOU PHILIP MORRIS	2 I LOVE YOU PHILIP MORRIS
3 ALICE IN WONDERLAND	3 ALICE IN WONDERLAND	3 ALICE IN WONDERLAND
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1 HOW TO TRAIN YOUR DRAGON	1 HOW TO TRAIN YOUR DRAGON	1 HOW TO TRAIN YOUR DRAGON
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CITY OF SAN FERNANDO	CITY OF TARLAC	
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visayas • mindanao

CITY OF BACOLOD	CITY OF ILOILO	CITY OF CAGAYAN DE ORO
1 HOW TO TRAIN YOUR DRAGON	1 HOW TO TRAIN YOUR DRAGON	1 HOW TO TRAIN YOUR DRAGON
2 I LOVE YOU PHILIP MORRIS	2 I LOVE YOU PHILIP MORRIS	2 I LOVE YOU PHILIP MORRIS
3 ALICE IN WONDERLAND	3 ALICE IN WONDERLAND	3 ALICE IN WONDERLAND
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CITY OF DAVAO	CITY OF GENERAL SANTOS	CITY OF ILIGAN
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2 I LOVE YOU PHILIP MORRIS	2 I LOVE YOU PHILIP MORRIS	2 I LOVE YOU PHILIP MORRIS
3 ALICE IN WONDERLAND	3 ALICE IN WONDERLAND	3 ALICE IN WONDERLAND
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CITY OF ZAMBOANGA		
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MOVIEWORLD

Let's hear it for Adolf Alix Jr.

By Nestor U. Torre

WE'RE HAPPY TO HEAR that a Filipino filmmaker, Adolf Alix Jr., has made it to The Hollywood Reporter's list of 20 top young Asian show biz comers and pacesetters.

It seems only yesterday that, as a lean 17-year-old, Adolf took our screenwriting workshop for the Film Development Foundation. We had so many students that year that he didn't really stand out in our perception, amid some outgoing extroverts revealed that he was among our better workshoppers.

Top prize

This was definitively affirmed when, the following year, Adolf's first full-length screenplay won the top prize in the humble men's annual scriptwriting competition, which attracted over a hundred entries from all over the country.

For a teenager like Adolf to top the prestigious competition was nothing short of amazing. Yet, the Ateneo de Manila high school junior had helped establish the young filmmaker as an enlightened proponent of the use of cinema to encourage viewers to count their nature and protect it and its threatened denizens from despoliation.

Rough terrain

When Adolf made another nature-based film, "Kadlit," in Batanes, we made it a point to cover the shoot. We put up with the hunting seas and rough terrain, and were impressed by Adolf's quiet but resolute fealty to his work.

Since then, he has continued to impress both viewers and festival scouts, not just with his talent, but also with his unusually prolific output—some 11 movies in only five years! Then, some of his productions have been less than truly elusive, but his batting average has been remarkable.

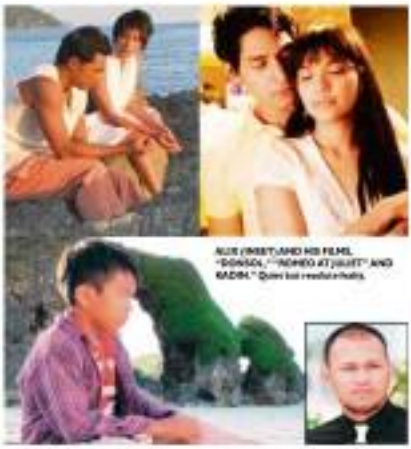
At only 21, Adolf has theatrically a whole filmmaking lifetime ahead of him, and viewers are sure to benefit from the honed fealty of his cinematic vision.

Contributions

Aside from Adolf, some of our other writing-directing students and workshoppers have also been doing well and making their own contributions to the betterment of Philippine, Asian, and world cinema.

Then include Jeqi del Mundo, who is regarded as a film guru in his own right, acclaimed filmmaker Lawrice Guillen, and TV film screenwriter Ricchie Fernandez of "Ang Pagdadalaga ni Maximo Oliveros" fame; Polanco prize-winner Beatrix Lim; TV film auteur Edmund Garay.

Hipe Dimlas, who mugged the international palaverissues, "Tarantula"; Elias Arevalo, whose next film is a "May-December" vehicle for Boots Anson-Roa; writer-directors, Robert Sena, Mike Sandejas; Lawrence Mara and Maxine Quiambao; Bienvenido Gutman, Christa Lotzer, Nilda Pantil, Rey Manalo, Ike Perez, Laurente Dyogi—and that comic! Adolf Alix Jr. is keeping positively fine company, indeed.



ALICE (WEST) AND HIS FILMS, "BONSOL," "ROMEO AT JULIET" AND KADLIT. Quiet but resolute hello.

Bernal classic gets update

By Rony Umoso

"MORNING GIRLS," FIRST shown 25 years ago, is one of the masterpieces of National Artist Manuel Bernal. The black-and-white comedy mirrored the changing status and attitude of women in the '80s.

Fast forward to 2010. Vita Films, Tony Gloria of United and GMA Films have joined forces to produce a sequel to Bernal's classic movie. "Coming up with a high-quality sequel is the least we can do to honor the legacy of Bernal. The material written by Amado Lanuevo featured an aspiring women in Ayala, Makati. Now, the situation has changed but still reflects the role of women these days," shares Joey Javier Reyes, who's directing the new production.

Strong-willed

Depicting the working girls (in) this time are Bella Gutierrez, Eugene Domingo, Christine Reyes, Pala Valdes, Ina Calinao, Jennylyn Mercado and Bianca King. Like their predecessors, they are empowered, strong-willed, and know what they want and how to get it. Their lives intertwine with characters from the first film. So, moviegoers will also get updates on the lives of Suzanne Gulang (Carmi Martin), Mando (Gina Pareño), Rose (Maria Isabel Lopez) and Isabel (Ma Luisa).

Social climber

Twenty-five years later, Suzanne is still a social climber, and is now one of the most glamorous gold-diggers in Manila. Mando sells fake products from Bangkok and Korea. Rose is a feminist...and Isabel has settled down and is raising her grandson.

In the sequel, Bella plays Blanca, a widowed beauty queen out to claim her inheritance; Eugene is Mando's daughter-in-law; Cristine is a pinoy girl looking for a rich man; Iza is a celebrity cosmetic surgeon; Ina is a movie rating to work abroad; Jen opts to a single mother, and Pala works as a TV segment producer.

Reyes said it was necessary to come up with a sequel rather than a remake: "So much has changed since 1984...we've had two female presidents since. The status of women in our society has evolved, and along with it, their stories," he observes.

CALZADO AND GUTIERREZ. Portray a nurse and a widowed beauty queen, respectively.

The joy within

A GOOD FRIEND, Rose Tamayo, recently celebrated his birthday. Many people went to him bearing gifts and bringing best wishes. He tediously endure thanks him for his valuable instruction and said, "You didn't just teach us martial arts, but also how to care for others and love life with wisdom and courage. We learned how to put in our best effort, and to develop self-discipline. Thank you for teaching us about life."

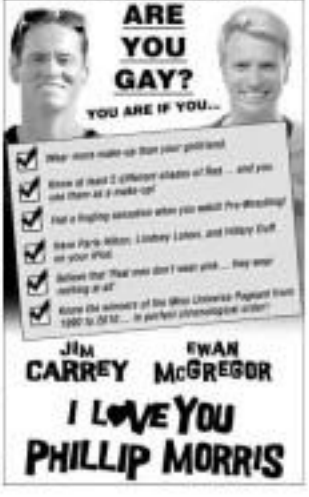
Teaching

In response, Toby replied: "My life has been spent teaching and taking care of young people. My teaching and I would feel empty if we didn't have students to teach and care for. I can only encourage you to similarly follow this path of sharing and caring. This way, you will experience fulfillment and happiness."

Toby doesn't make a lot of money teaching others. But, he certainly has a wealth and treasure no coin can buy or value asses. He can relish the joy within—even before you die.

Lotus Pond

R. Valenzuela and E. Bismonte



Woody, Buzz face abandonment issues in latest 'Toy' installment

LAS VEGAS...PLAYTIME IS OVER FOR Woody the cowboy, Buzz Lightyear and their friends. "Toy Story 3" poses a new question for the gang from the 1995 hit that launched computer animation into the feature-film world: Is there life for a toy after your kid games up?

"Game on, let's see how much we're going for an effing," laments Duke Kahanamoku's character in "Toy Story 3" as the other toys ponder a lonely future, with their owner, lively heading to college and leaving them behind. Though the film is not yet finished, with much of the animation still in rough form, the screening provided a sneak peek for one of summer's most anticipated releases.

"TOY STORY 3." h. down 6th for a toy after a kid games up!

Nostalgic

"The youngest kids who saw 'Toy Story' and 'Toy Story 2' when they first came out are now also heading off to college. That's the position Andy's in, so it's very strange and nostalgic for people to see characters that were part of their childhood kind of growing up with them and facing the same life changes," avowed "Toy Story 3" director, Lee Unkrich, who was a film editor on "Toy Story" and a codirector on "Toy Story 2."

"For anyone who's had a transition in life—heading off to college, getting out of school, and heading off into the workforce—these are major transitions in their own way, our characters are dealing with similar transitions," Unkrich said in an interview after the screening.

For Andy's favorite playthings, Woody and Buzz (voiced by Tom Hanks and Tim Allen), the transition threatens to end their long partnership, as the toys argue over what steps would be best for their future.

Due to theaters on June 18, the third installment of the animation franchise also features screaming voice cast members that include Joan Cusack, Don Rickles and Wallace Shawn. Among new voice actors are Whoopi Goldberg, Ned Beatty, Timothy Dalton and Michael Keaton.

Pixar ranks thirteen over the years as some of the most successful movies ever released "real asked," study's toys face their own mortality...that moment when they ask themselves what reason they have to exist without a child to play with them. There were adventures taken down to a cosmic parallel...a dire care center with a surrounding supply of kids. But, there does find a rapid regress and by a cuddly but deceptive teddy bear who discovers what toys will read up with the gentler, older children and what will be terminated as "toddler fodder."

Category

"Toy Story 3" is the 11th feature film from Disney-owned Pixar Animation, which recently won its latest Academy Award with last year's blockbuster, "Up." Pixar films have won five of the nine Oscars for feature-length animation since the category was added (the other winners are "Finding Nemo," "The Incredibles," "Ratatouille" and "WALL-E").

Pixar personnel knew as far back as 1999's "Toy Story 2" that they might want to return for another sequel. "We don't make sequels just for the sake of making them—but, in this case, we truly loved characters and their world," Unkrich observed. "There's the foundation of our company. We think of them as people. We don't think of them as cartoon characters, so we really wanted to visit their world again. But, we didn't want to do it if we couldn't come up with something great."

The key creative team at Pixar gathered for a two-day retreat at the same cabin where they spent a week prior to the original "Toy Story." They had been kicking around an idea for "Toy Story 3" for years, but they quickly realized it wouldn't hold up as a feature film.

The first day went by, and no fresh ideas struck. So, they decided to watch "Toy Story" and "Toy Story 2" again. "We hadn't seen them in a long time," Unkrich said, sitting around a laptop. "We didn't even have a TV," Unkrich recalled. "We watched and really enjoyed them! And, when they were over, we were thoroughly depressed, because we thought, how can we possibly make sequels or movie worthy of being with those two? There, now, we had to make those movies, as if anyone's going to pull it off, it's going to be us. So, we met the next day, and [told] [a]s the seeds of this came together."

Mastermind

The franchise all runs on the simple, clever premise under Pixar come up with on the first movie. That two-come alive when people aren't around. "Toy Story 3" producer, Darla K. Anderson, jokingly hinted that, in that regard, the movies border on documentary.

"It's a fact that toys come alive. I can't believe we're questioning it," Anderson exclaimed. "When you're 4 years old, I believed my toys were connected to me in living, breathing ways."

AP

"BAHAL BOYS" AND "LOLA." Originality and fresh ideas.

What makes local . . .

From page C1

i screen, dubi wala usually as main attention. The taste of the mass is usually dictated by mainstream media. So, dumi lang talaga ang nanood. Maybe it would be a good idea to make them watchable at mainstream theaters for the [unclear] Kaya nga tayo!."—dubbbsss fabis, college student

Vision

"Why do I watch indies?—because they're where originality and fresh ideas are. You hardly find that anywhere in mainstream movies. What I don't like about some indie movies is that, they're haphazard, and they expect you in "get" a filmmaker's vision without trying hard to make you want to do it. I'm all for micro, but I want to enjoy myself, too. So, tell a good story, make it interesting, but don't give me a headache, please!"—Joe Gombero, high school teacher

"Indie movies are very brave. I like their candor, especially the ones with local flavor, and those that capture the Filipino psyche. What I don't like about them: Low production values while making budget constraints as their excuse, creating this so-called 'mainstream' vs. 'indie' dichotomy when in fact, there should be only one." by Elsa school. This includes poorly shots, noisy background, ambient sound, etc. This style is not actual by now, 1960s-era long, gorgeous no by French filmmakers during the New Wave era.

"I think it is important the many gen of cinema as an art form, fostering figure by importance ang aesthetics, aside from the narrative structure. To make them available to the wider audience, as the role of filmmakers, their films ay nagiging mas accessible. Kung hindi man gagawin ang panggawa ng sinehan na i-do-book-on-ang audience, then to evaluate something new, kinda by lit. ik."—King Mark Bautz, filmmaker

"I like indies because their films are deeper, deeper in thought, and more profound. I see such films as having a more artistic intention, as compared to the usual commercialized movies. For me, indie films exude 'natural-ness.' This element of being 'natural' touches the soul making me appreciate them. Sometimes, however, they're stressful to watch, because of the heavy amount of analysis that must be taken into account. But, this aspect also makes them interesting and makes the intellectual dueling. ..."

Quota

"To make indies more accessible, on the distribution side, they could use a social networking sites like Facebook. Before launching a movie, the director can create a group page for it, earn fans, and after reaching a certain quota, he could then air the movie for the audience."—Maureen dela Peña, government student

"I watch indies because it's a good way to support the local movie industry. Patronize your own, not just foreign films. Also, I like how real their stories are, how they depict the realities in the lives of Filipinos. What I don't like is that, there's too much obscenity and violence!"—Ronald Alan Jones, government employee

Romance interrupted

From page C

Before his life behind bars, Steven lived a seemingly blissful life with Debbie (Leslie Mann), his devoted-as-accident bitter about a life-changing epiphany that convinces the married cop to step out of the closet, and live life to the fullest—with his newfound boyfriend, Jimmy (Rodrigo Santoro)!

Love at first sight

But, as he later complains, "It's expensive being gay!" So, Steven starts freezing people. The inventive ploy's "cheaper" eventually leads him to jail, where he meets Phillip—and it's love at first sight! The movie details how then to manage plays out, as Steven brilliantly manipulates one con job after another when escaping prison, he "persuades" a top executive to make him its chief financial officer. Better, he gets Phillip out of prison—by pretending to be a lawyer!

The hilariously entertaining pink film possesses an offbeat charm, and has some affecting, "Chances Are"-charged romance moments. Carrey's quirky comic-timing and rubber-faced expressions, it's easy for viewers to believe that he can pull off Steven's elaborate scams. Coaching along the main comedian's shape-shifting skills is McGregor, who gets to show off his luminous, pretty-boy looks.

Unfortunately, viewers will find themselves underwhelmed by the lack of resonance in some of the couple's alien moments together—which should have conveyed the advance simmering, tender bonds the ones and finds of Steven and Phillip's relationship. Yeah, it's just hard to take Jim Carrey-cent ends—even when he's dead serious!

Terrifying secrets

In "Names to Jules," Joseph (Victor Sisco) and Angel (Alexandra de la Stout) also look like they're dead serious about their budding romance. But, their rich boy/poor girl love story is hounded by their dark pasts and terrifying secrets.

Joseph is a repressed medical student son former womanizer who is now smothered by his domineering, talkaccustomer mother, while Angel, who was sexually abused as a child, makes ends meet as a high-class "escort." Their promising future together goes awry when he finds out about Angel (Jules for his) fling. The ever reliable Ms Stout plays her character convincingly, but the other phlegmatic Sisco, while charming, is unable to match his leading lady's enforced passion.

Though more so Joseph and Angel's gloomy tale (hats the analogy it draws from the Cajubrés and Montagues' mood discord. Alle cleverly demonstrates how jamming skills influence a person's future and shapes his/her disposition. The film's narrative alternately soars and dwindles, but its cautionary tone carries portmore warnings in a ruthless society that thrives in increasing amorality.